



KLAW



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KLAW

THE FIRST CYCLE

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MAGNETIC PRESS

MIKE KENNEDY, *PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER*

WES HARRIS, *VICE PRESIDENT*

DAVID DISSANAYAKE, *PR & MARKETING*

4910 N. WINTHROP AVE #3S

CHICAGO, IL 60640

WWW.MAGNETIC-PRESS.COM



KLAW: THE FIRST CYCLE

OCTOBER 2016. SECOND PRINTING

ISBN: 978-1-942367-20-8

FIRST PUBLISHED IN FRANCE IN 2011 BY LOMBARD. WWW.LELOMBARD.COM

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PART ONE: **AWAKENING**

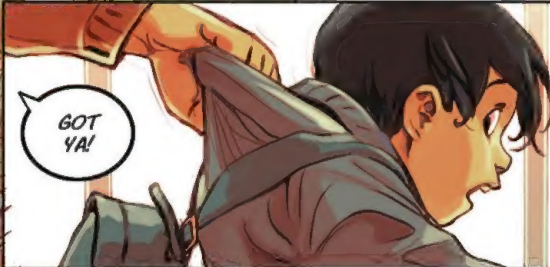


FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12
2031

DRYING
KILL

MOVE!
HELP!

GET HIM!



GOT
YA!



HEY -- GET
BACK HERE
YA RUNT!

HELP!



THAT'S THE DAY
IT ALL STARTED.

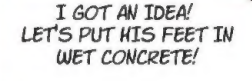
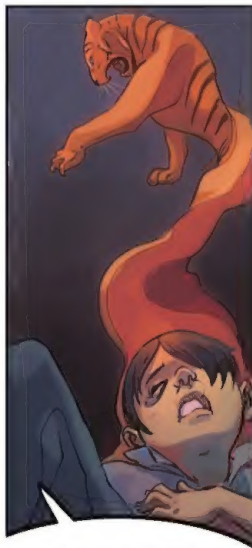
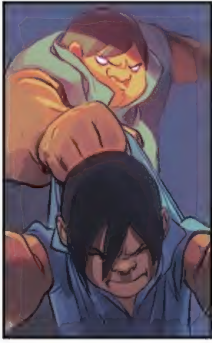


HAH! YOU THOUGHT YOU
COULD GET AWAY FROM
US?



WHEN REALLY IT
SHOULD HAVE BEEN
THE END...

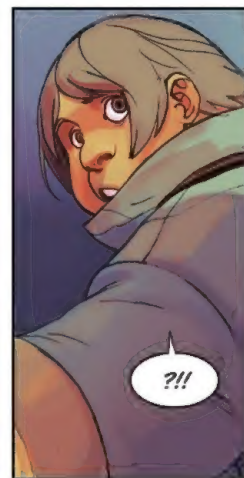




HOW ABOUT IF WE MAKE HIM DRINK
OUT OF THE TOILET?



WHAT? I
DON'T SEE
YOU OFFERING
IDEAS!



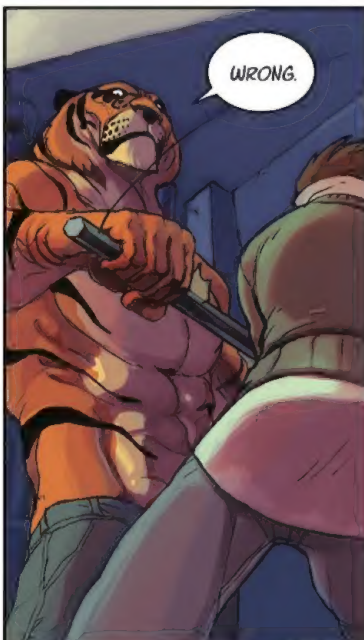
RUN!!!



I GOT
HIM --!



WRONG.

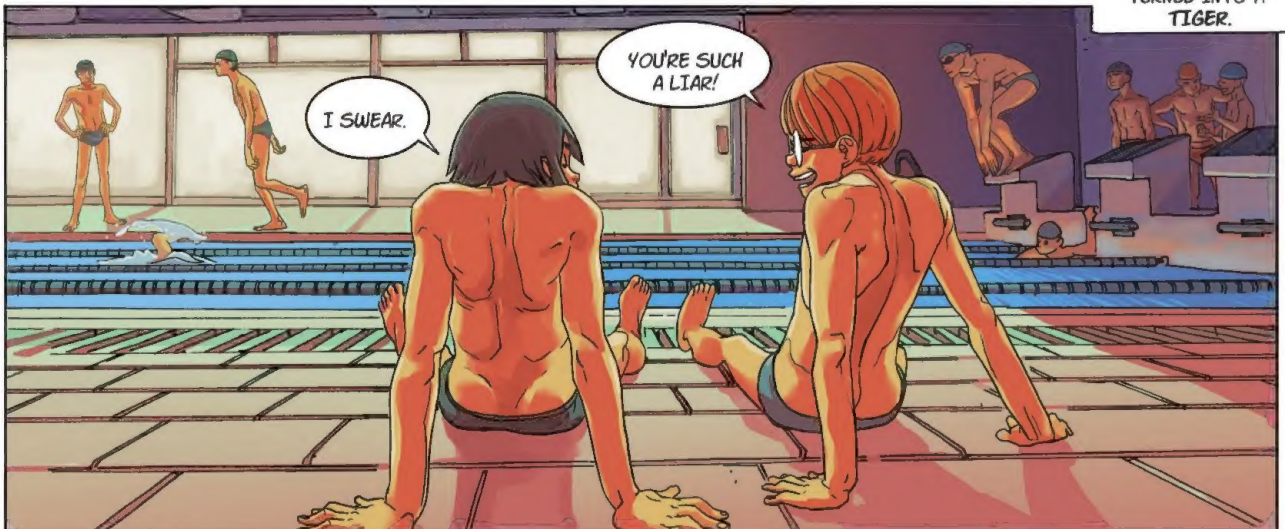


<GULP>



C'MON,
FREAK!

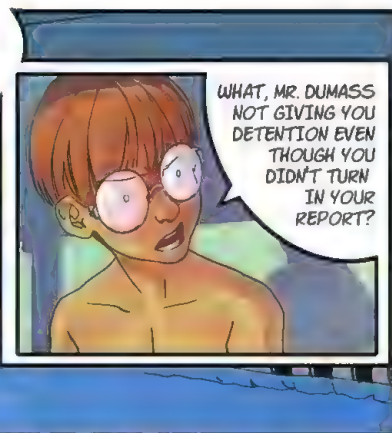




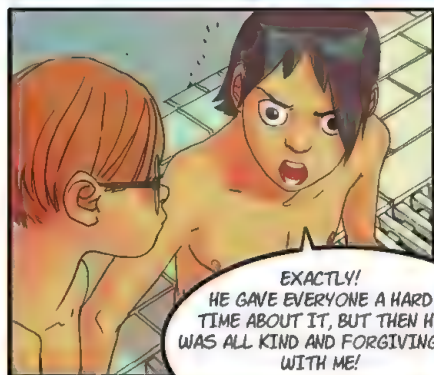


OH, SORRY —
I WASN'T MAKING
FUN OF YOU! DON'T
POP YOUR CLAWS!
GRRRR!!

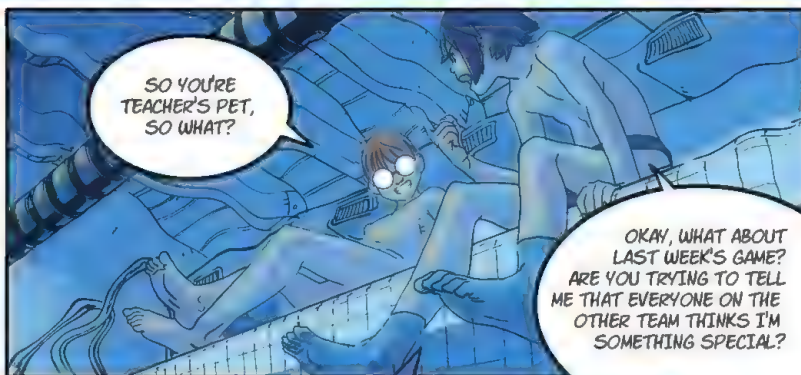
HAH HAH. SO HOW DO YOU
EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED
IN CHEMISTRY LAST
WEEK?



WHAT, MR. DUMASS
NOT GIVING YOU
DETENTION EVEN
THOUGH YOU
DIDN'T TURN
IN YOUR
REPORT?

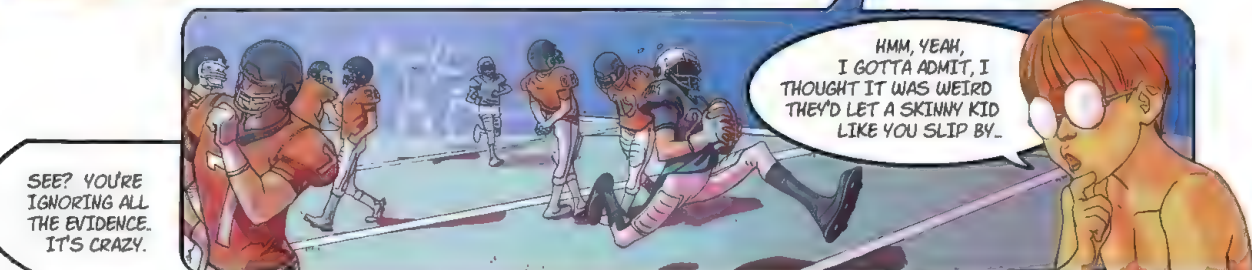


EXACTLY!
HE GAVE EVERYONE A HARD
TIME ABOUT IT, BUT THEN HE
WAS ALL KIND AND FORGIVING
WITH ME!



SO YOU'RE
TEACHER'S PET,
SO WHAT?

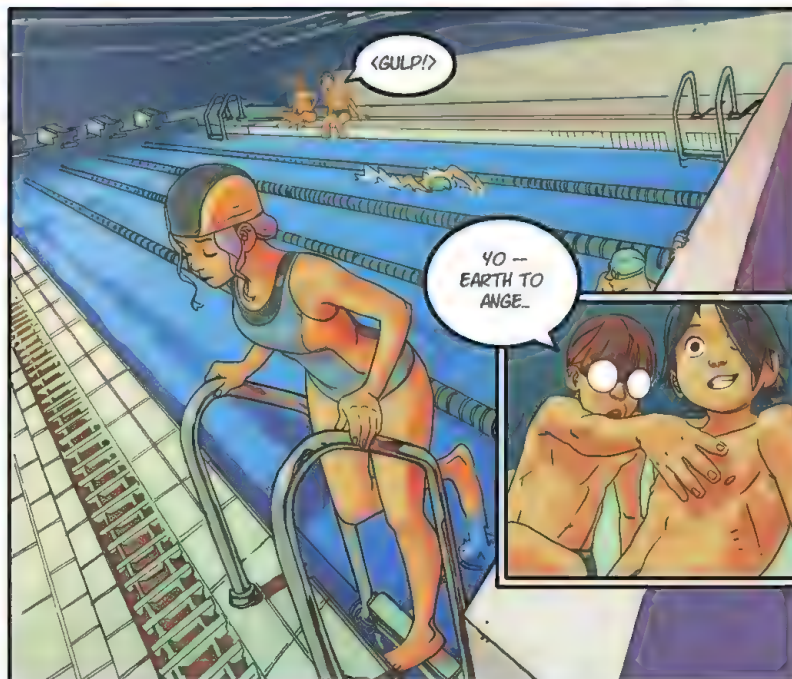
OKAY, WHAT ABOUT
LAST WEEK'S GAME?
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL
ME THAT EVERYONE ON THE
OTHER TEAM THINKS I'M
SOMETHING SPECIAL?



HMM, YEAH,
I GOTTA ADMIT, I
THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD
THEY'D LET A SKINNY KID
LIKE YOU SLIP BY...

SEE? YOU'RE
IGNORING ALL
THE EVIDENCE.
IT'S CRAZY.

SO WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT
EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT
YOUR SPLIT PERSONALITY,
AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE
BEING NICE TO YOU?



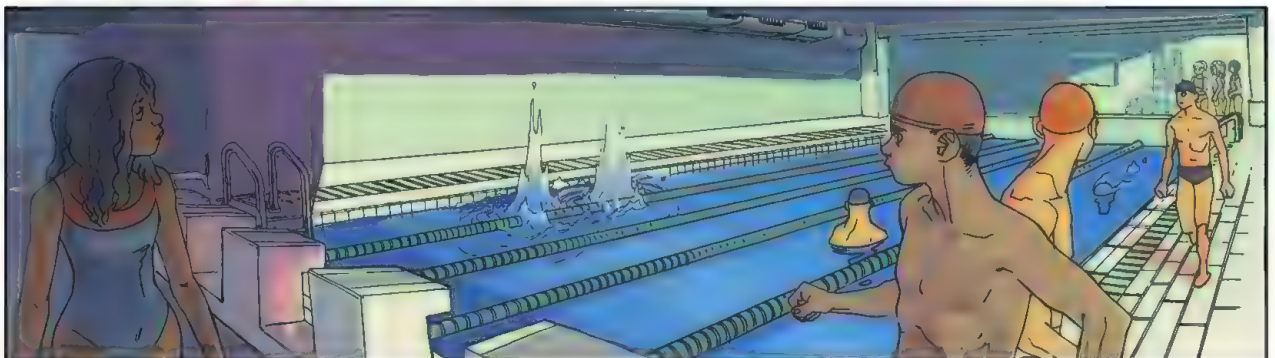
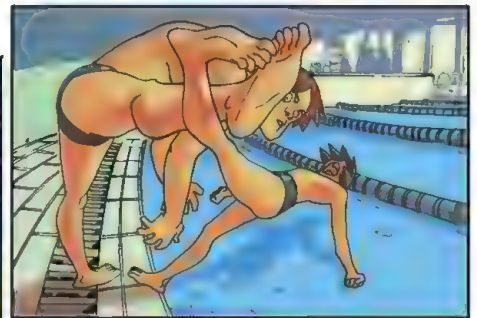
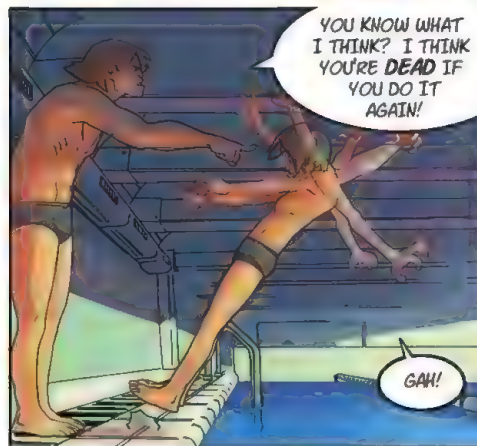
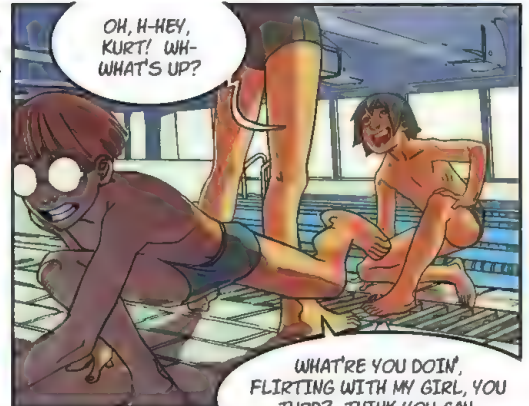
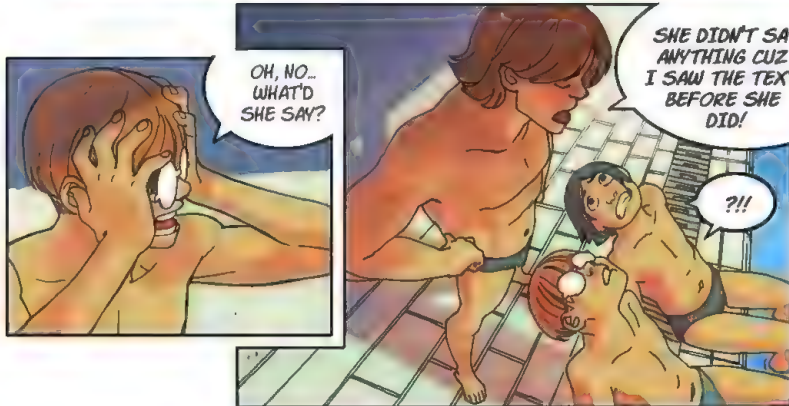
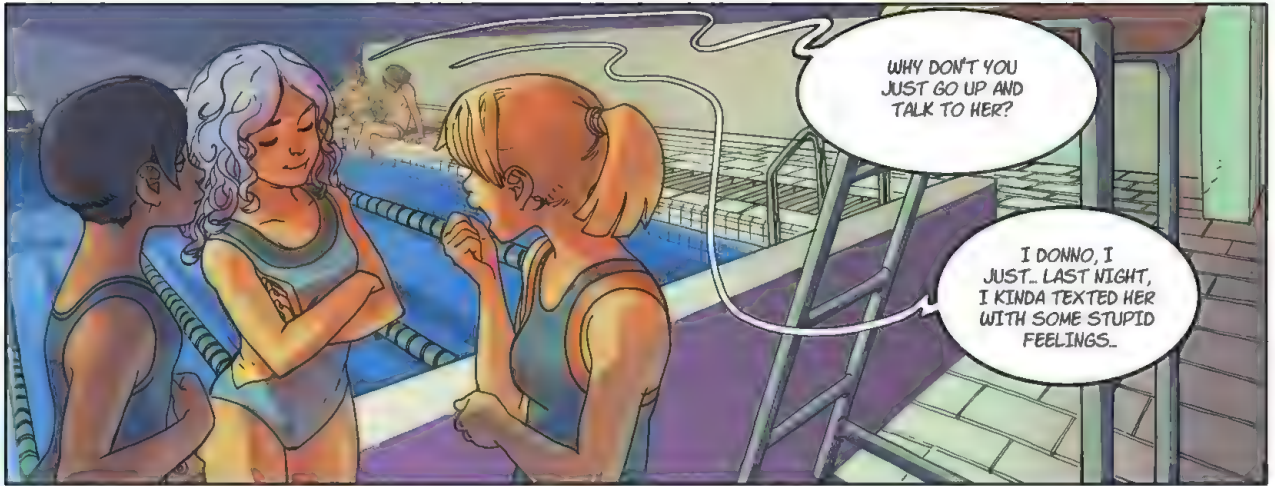
<GULP!>

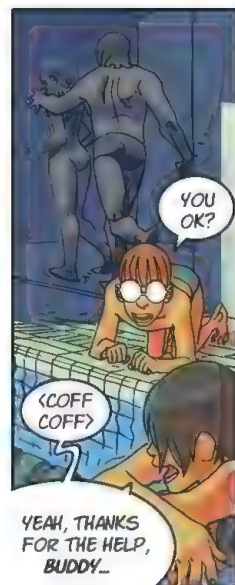
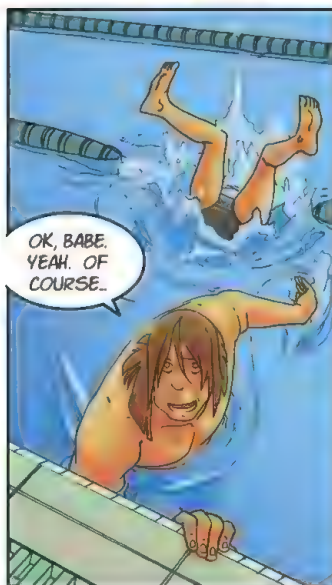
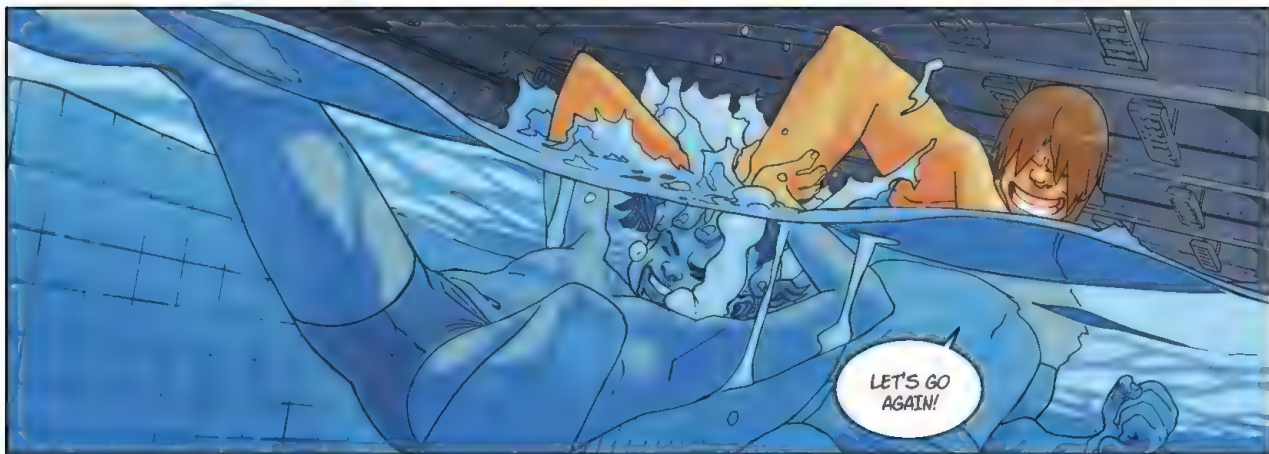
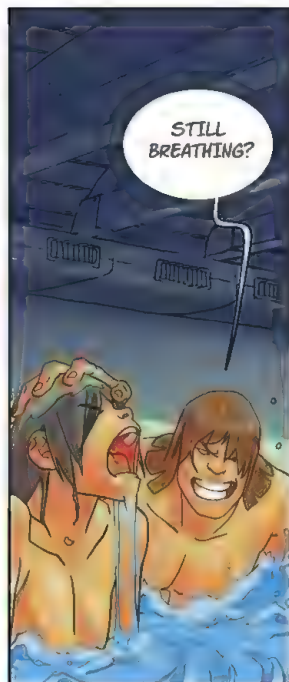
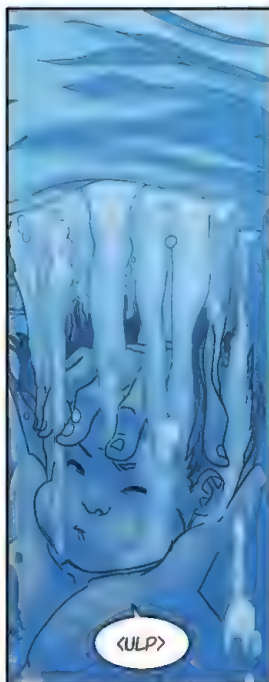
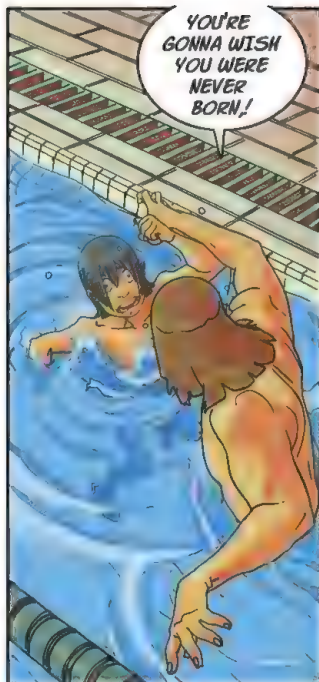
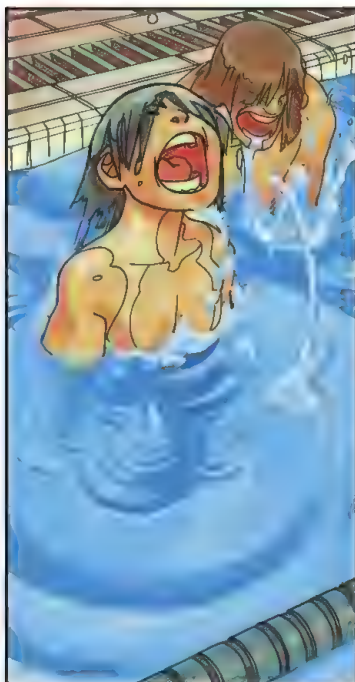
YO —
EARTH TO
ANGE...

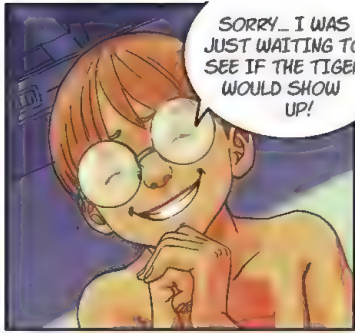
OH, I GET IT —
WHEN LISA'S AROUND,
EVEN THE TIGER TURNS
INTO A KITTY CAT...



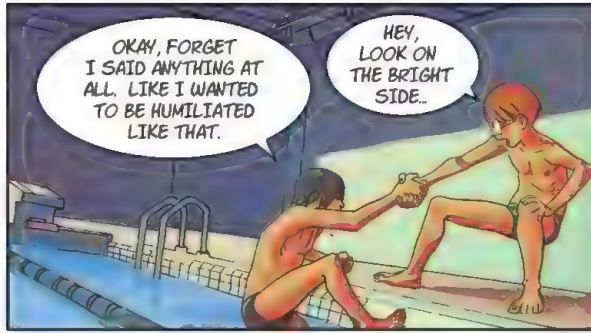
SHUT UP.
I WILL END YOU.







SORRY... I WAS JUST WAITING TO SEE IF THE TIGER WOULD SHOW UP!



OKAY, FORGET I SAID ANYTHING AT ALL. LIKE I WANTED TO BE HUMILIATED LIKE THAT.

HEY, LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

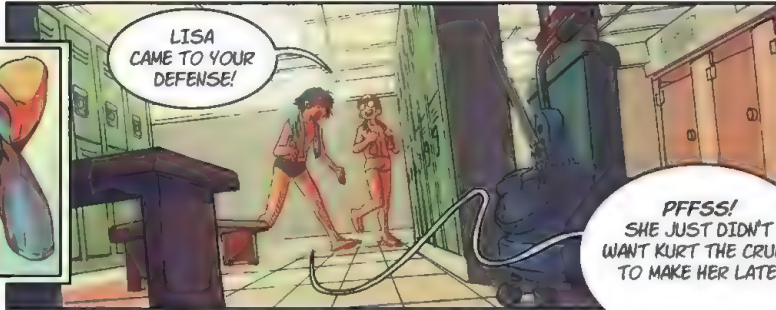


YEAH, TRUE, SHE PROBABLY HATES YOU.

RAAAHHH...



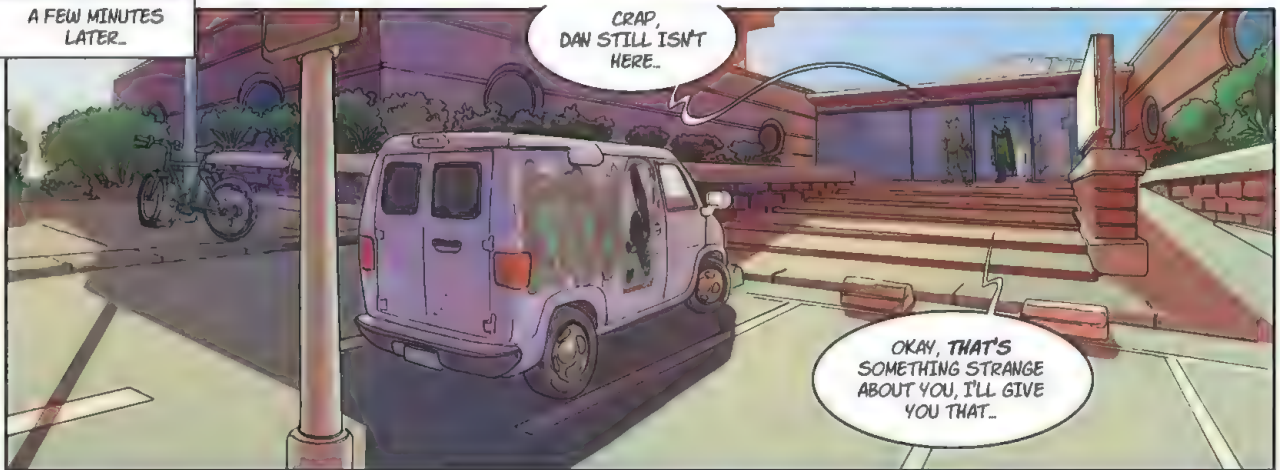
WHAT BRIGHT SIDE?



LISA CAME TO YOUR DEFENSE!

PFFSS! SHE JUST DIDN'T WANT KURT THE CRUEL TO MAKE HER LATE.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...



CRAP, DAN STILL ISN'T HERE...

OKAY, THAT'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT YOU, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT...



WHAT?

HOW MANY KIDS OUR AGE DO YOU KNOW WITH A BODY-GUARD PICKING THEM UP EVERY DAY?



WHAT?? FIRST OF ALL, DAN'S NOT MY BODYGUARD, HE'S MY CHAUFFEUR, AND ONLY BECAUSE MY DAD'S BUSINESS MAKES IT TOO DANGEROUS TO GO HOME ALONE.

RIGHT. BECAUSE THE FISH BIZ IS A REAL KILLER.



OKAY, FIRST: MY DAD ISN'T IN "THE FISH BIZ." HE OWNS THE BIGGEST FISH COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY. SECOND, HIS COMPETITION WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET LEVERAGE ON HIM.



THERE HE IS!



HEY, GUYS!
SORRY I'M LATE.

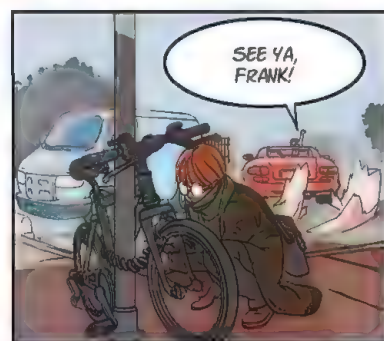
YOU
WANT A
RIDE?

NAH, I'VE
GOT MY BIKE.

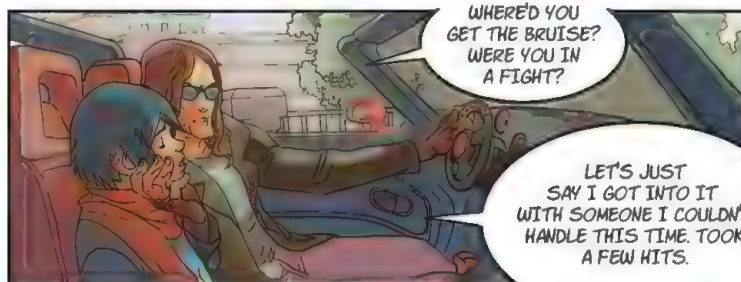


SEE YA TOMORROW.
UNLESS YOU TURN
INTO A TIGER
PERMANENTLY.

HAH HAH,
JERK.

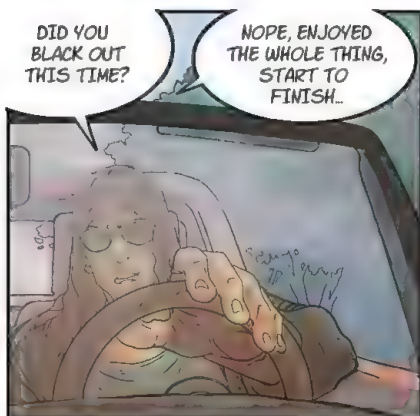


SEE YA,
FRANK!



WHERE'D YOU
GET THE BRUISE?
WERE YOU IN
A FIGHT?

LET'S JUST
SAY I GOT INTO IT
WITH SOMEONE I COULDN'T
HANDLE THIS TIME. TOOK
A FEW HITS.

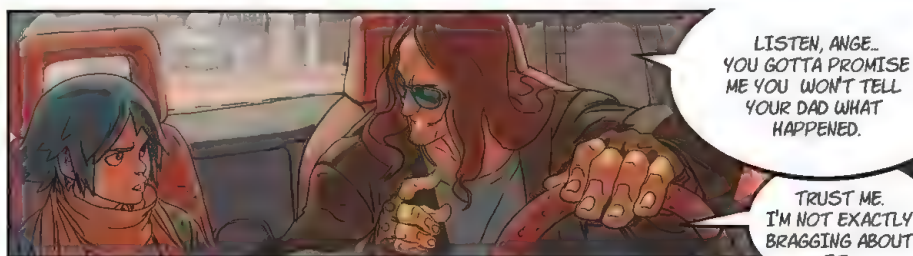


DID YOU
BLACK OUT
THIS TIME?

NOPE, ENJOYED
THE WHOLE THING,
START TO
FINISH.

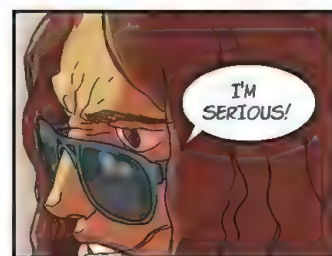


...WHY
ARE YOU
STOPPING?

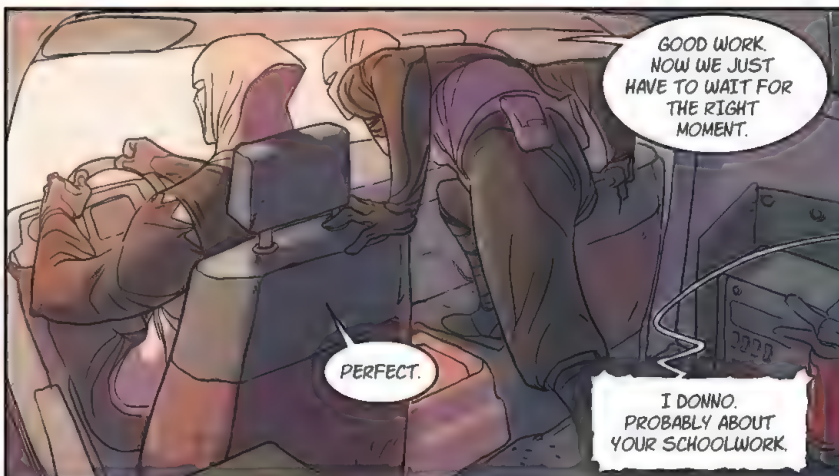
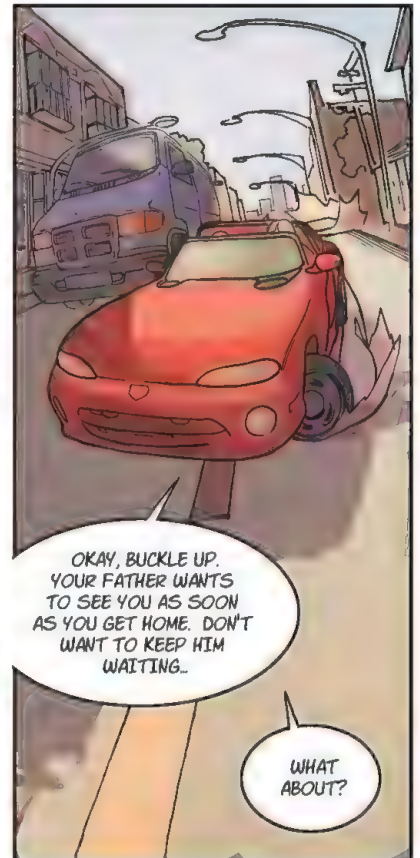
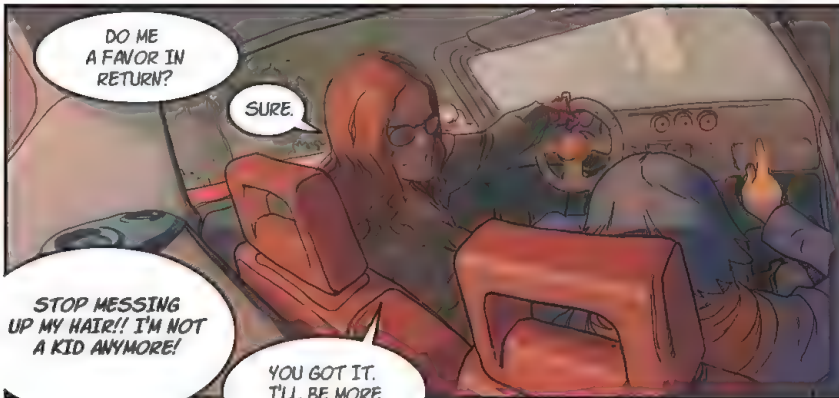
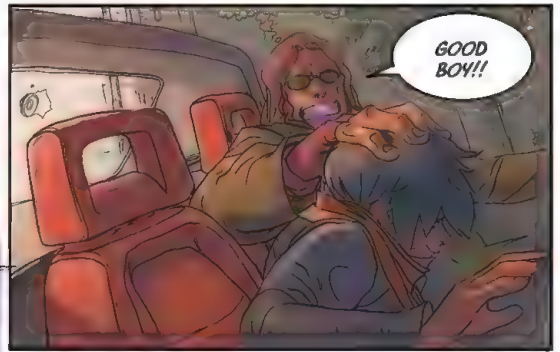
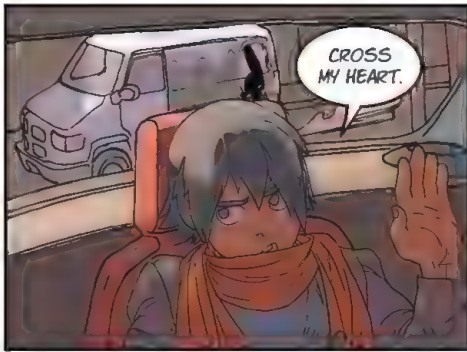


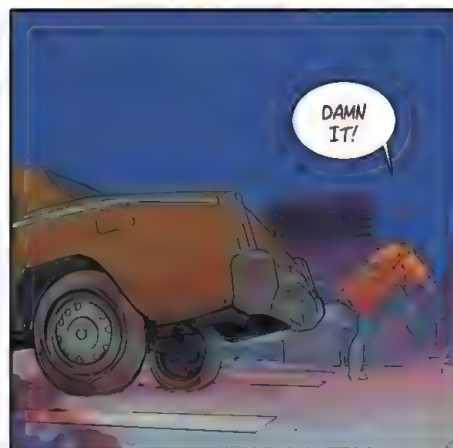
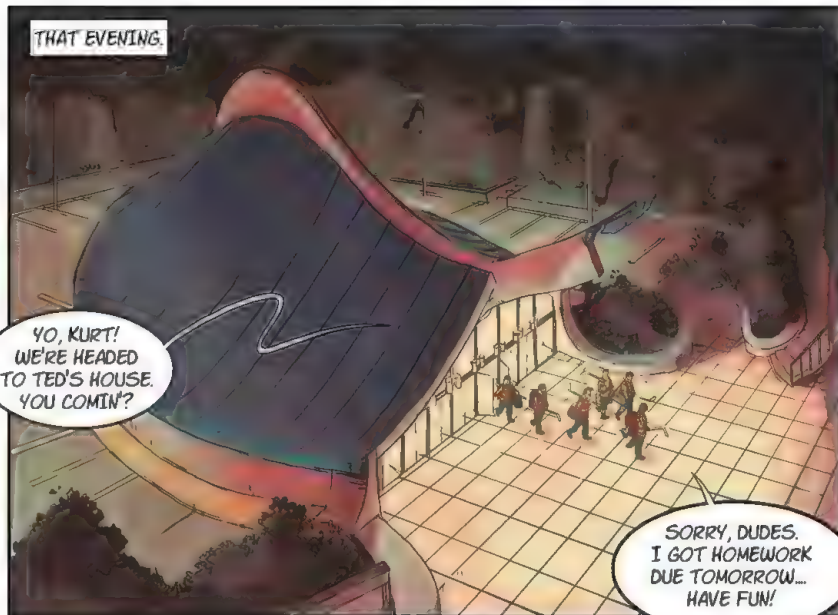
LISTEN, ANGE...
YOU GOTTA PROMISE
ME YOU WON'T TELL
YOUR DAD WHAT
HAPPENED.

TRUST ME.
I'M NOT EXACTLY
BRAGGING ABOUT
IT.

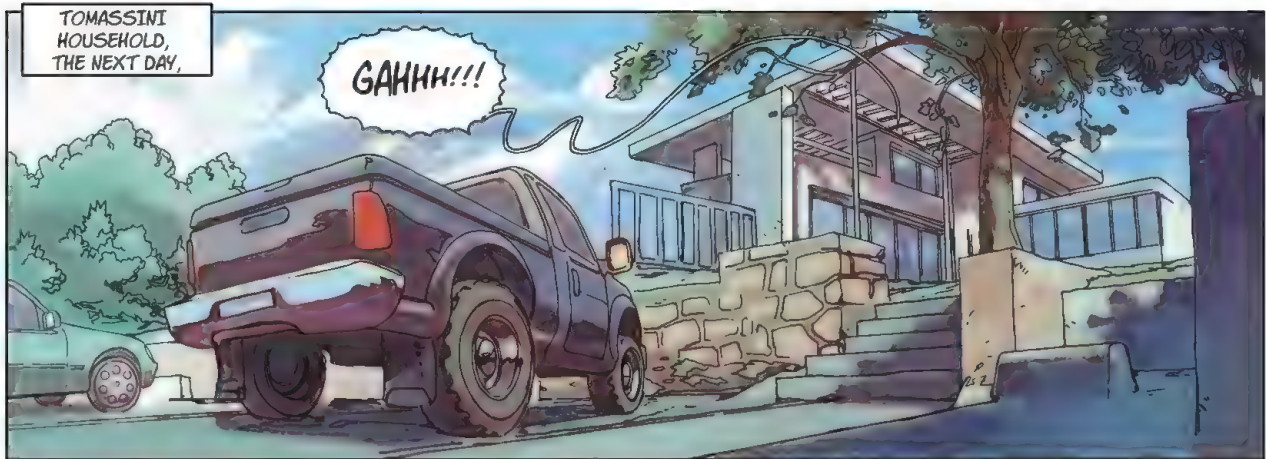


I'M
SERIOUS!







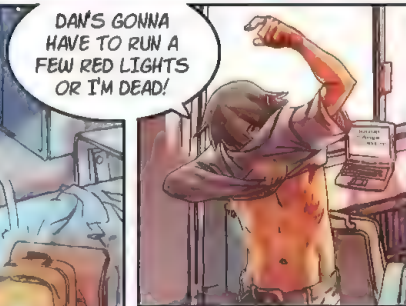


TOMASSINI
HOUSEHOLD,
THE NEXT DAY,

GAHHH!!!



STUPID
ALARM CLOCK!
WHAT AM I,
CURSED??



DAN'S GONNA
HAVE TO RUN A
FEW RED LIGHTS
OR I'M DEAD!



HEY, BRO.
LATE AGAIN?

CAN'T YOU
KNOCK??

CAN'T
YOU SAY
HELLO?



HI,
SILVIO.

BYE, SILVIO.
HAVE A WONDERFUL
DAY, MY DEAREST
BROTHER.



YO
ANGE!!



OH, BOY...

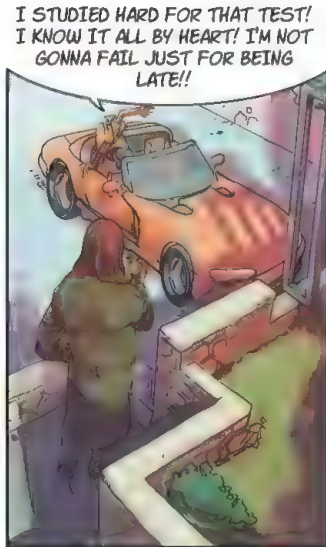
C'MON, ANGE --
SAY GOOD MORNING
TO THE UNCLES! THEY'RE
FAMILY! GREET THEM
PROPERLY!

Y'KNOW,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
RUN...

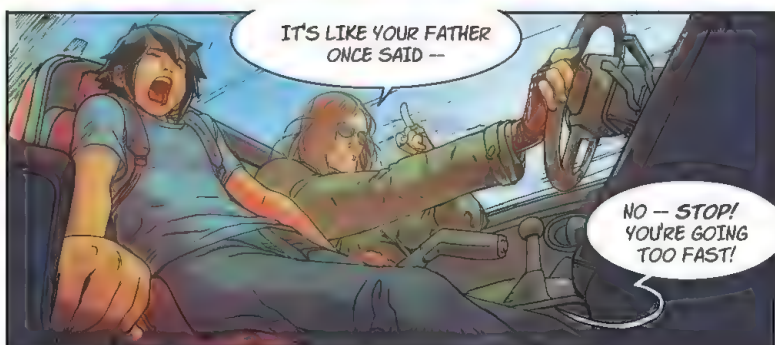
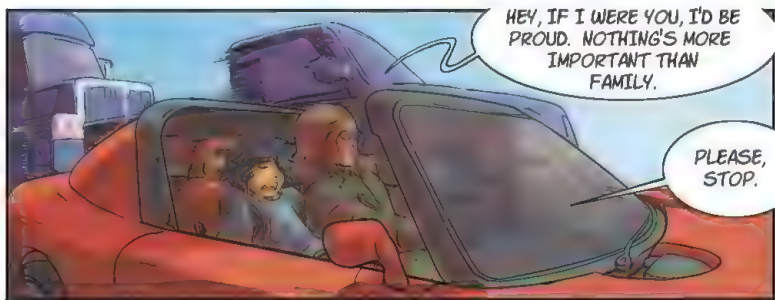
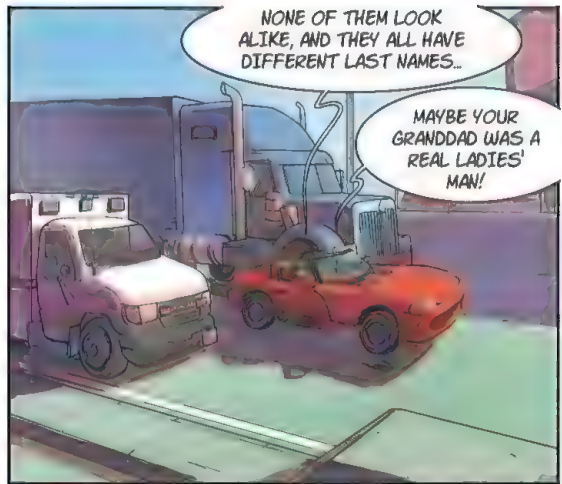
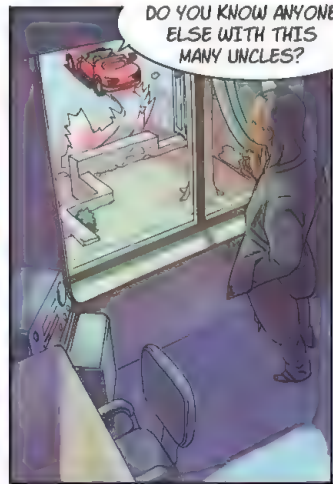


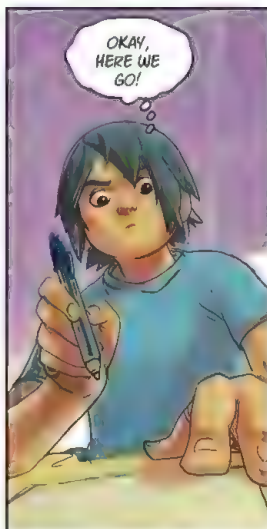
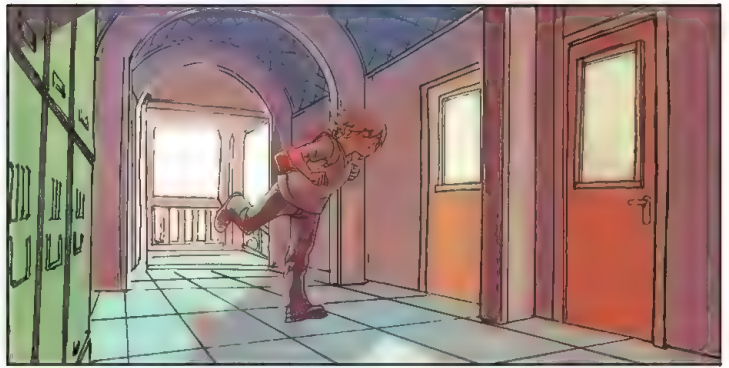
20 MINUTES LATER

SO YOU MISSED IT. WHY WORRY ABOUT IT NOW?



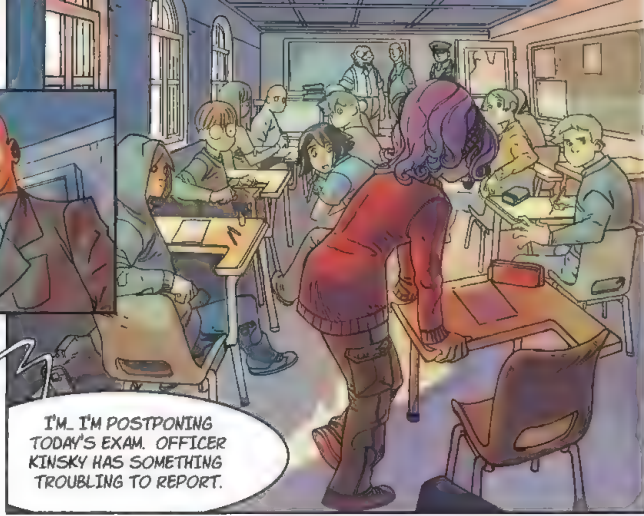
LIKE WHAT?







LISA?
WOULD YOU COME
TO MY OFFICE
PLEASE?



I'M. I'M POSTPONING
TODAY'S EXAM. OFFICER
KINSKY HAS SOMETHING
TROUBLING TO REPORT.



'MORNING, KIDS.
WHAT I GOTTA SAY ISN'T
VERY PLEASANT. EARLY THIS
MORNING, ONE OF YOUR CLASS-
MATES WAS FOUND DEAD DOWN BY
THE RAILYARD. WE IDENTIFIED
THE BODY AS KURT BECKET,
LISA'S BOYFRIEND.



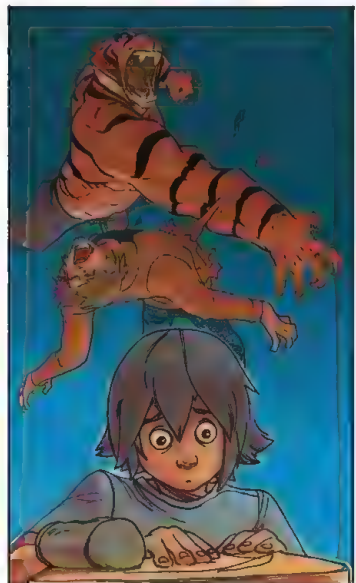
WHAAAT??

CALM DOWN,
STAY CALM!



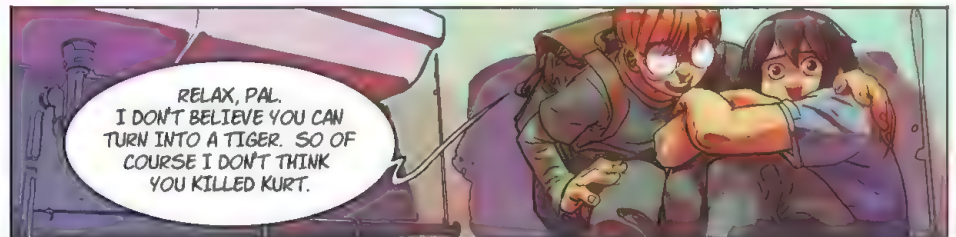
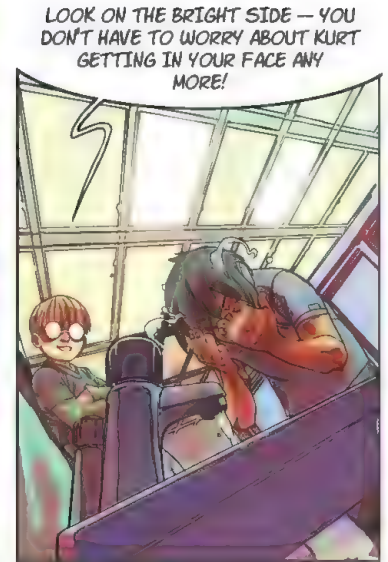
H-HOW...
HOW DID HE
DIE?

APPARENTLY, HE WAS
MAINED BY SOMETHING
OR SOMEONE WITH A SHARP
OBJECT. THE WOUNDS
SUGGEST SOMETHING
RAKE-LIKE, LIKE A SET
OF CLAWS...

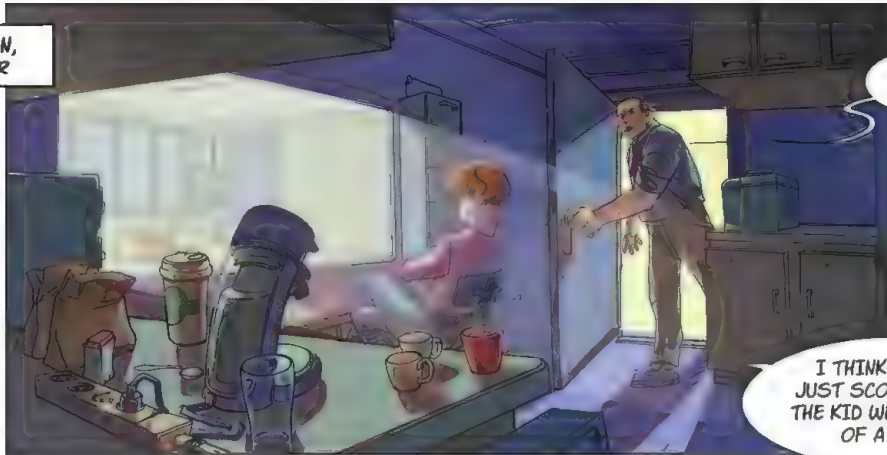


IF YOU CAN THINK OF ANYTHING
THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO THIS
CASE, DON'T HESITATE TO REPORT IT.
ANY CLUE, EVEN THE SMALLEST
DETAIL, COULD HELP US CAPTURE
WHOEVER -- OR WHATEVER --
DID THIS.





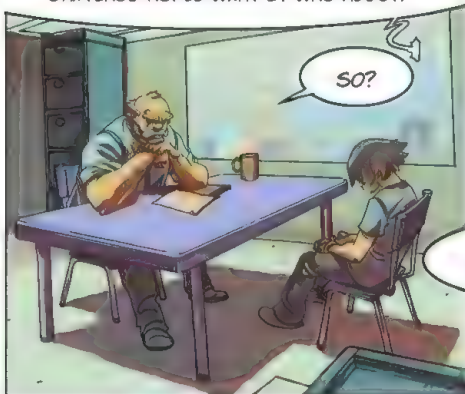
POLICE STATION,
NOT MUCH LATER



WHAT'VE
WE GOT?

I THINK SANTIAGO
JUST SCORED A POINT.
THE KID WENT PALE ALL
OF A SUDDEN.

LISA DEPATIE TOLD US ABOUT AN ARGUMENT
THE KID HAD WITH THE VIC BY THE POOL.
SANTIAGO ASKED WHAT IT WAS ABOUT.



SO?

LEMME TELL
YOU WHAT I THINK.

I THINK KURT
HUMILIATED YOU IN FRONT OF A
CUTE GIRL, AND YOU WANTED REVENGE.



THE LOVE
OF YOUR LIFE,
LISA. AM I
RIGHT?

I.

WHAT'S GOING
ON IN HERE?
IS THIS A
JOKE?



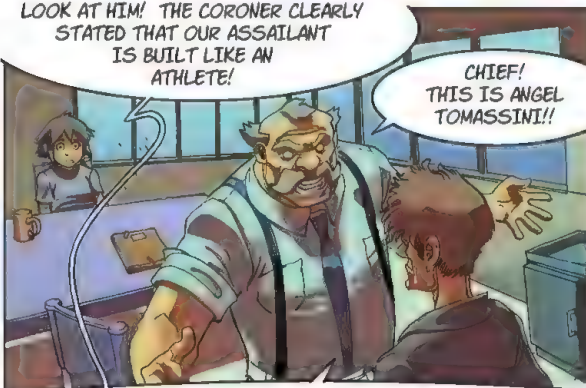
I'M INTERROGATING
A SUSPECT, CHIEF...

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA HOW MANY
ERRORS YOU'VE
COMMITTED
HERE?



LOOK AT HIM! THE CORONER CLEARLY
STATED THAT OUR ASSAILANT
IS BUILT LIKE AN
ATHLETE!

CHIEF!
THIS IS ANGEL
TOMASSINI!!



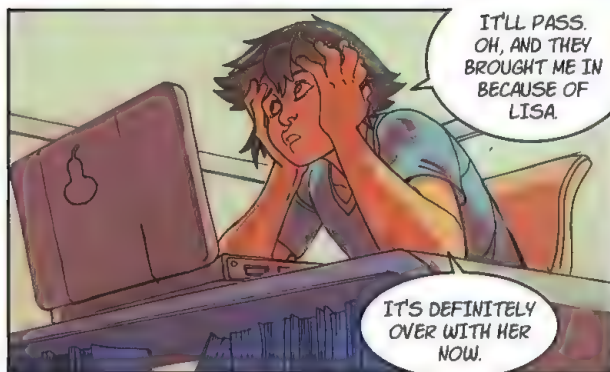
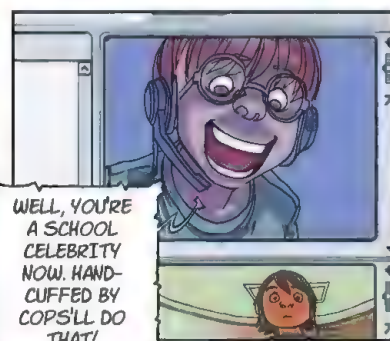
EXACTLY. AND THE MAYOR JUST CALLED DEMANDING HIS
RELEASE. HE'S GOING TO TRY TO FIX YOUR MISTAKES
IN ORDER TO AVOID A CIVIL TRIAL!

I GET
IT.

IS THERE A
PROBLEM?

NO, NO, I WAS JUST
SAYING HOW MUCH OUR
MAYOR LIKES HIS
FISH THESE
DAYS.







WELL, SOMEONE
JUST KILLED MY
BOYFRIEND...

OH, RIGHT...
I MEAN, I-I
JUST WONDERED
HOW YOU --



IT'S OKAY. I GET
IT. THANKS FOR
ASKING.



LOOK, I'M CALLING
TO MAKE SURE YOU
DIDN'T THINK I
ACCUSED YOU OR
ANYTHING...

WHAT? HAHAH,
NO WAY, I WASN'T
THINKING THAT.



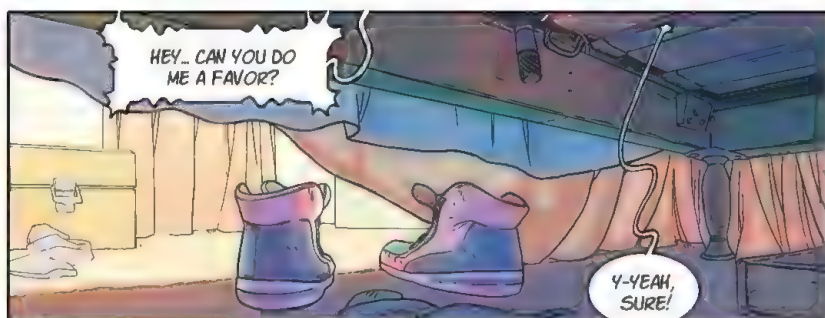
GOOD, THEY GOT A LITTLE
CARRIED AWAY. I NEVER
WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
THEY'D GO THAT FAR.

NOW, IT'S
COOL. THEY
LET ME GO.



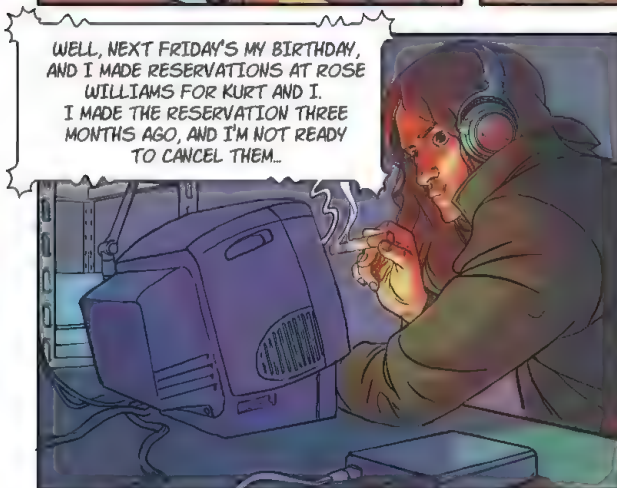
GOOD.

YEAH.

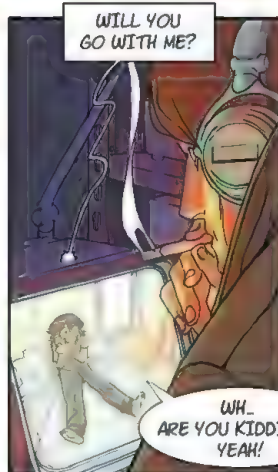


HEY... CAN YOU DO
ME A FAVOR?

Y-YEAH,
SURE!



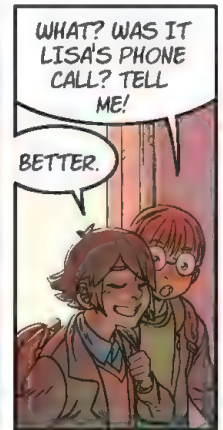
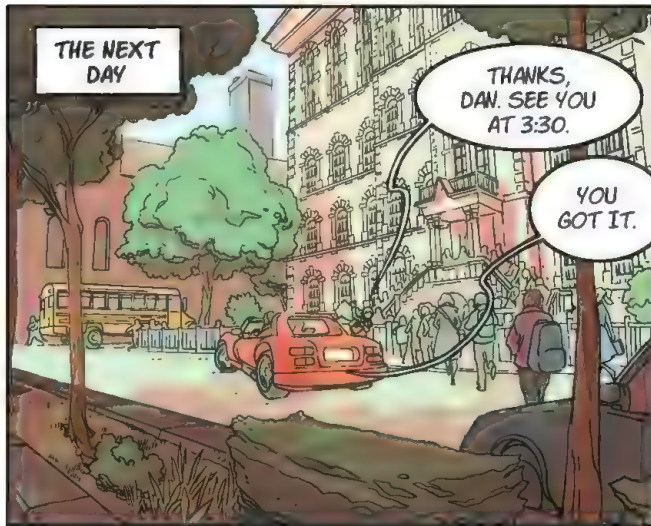
WELL, NEXT FRIDAY'S MY BIRTHDAY,
AND I MADE RESERVATIONS AT ROSE
WILLIAMS FOR KURT AND I.
I MADE THE RESERVATION THREE
MONTHS AGO, AND I'M NOT READY
TO CANCEL THEM...

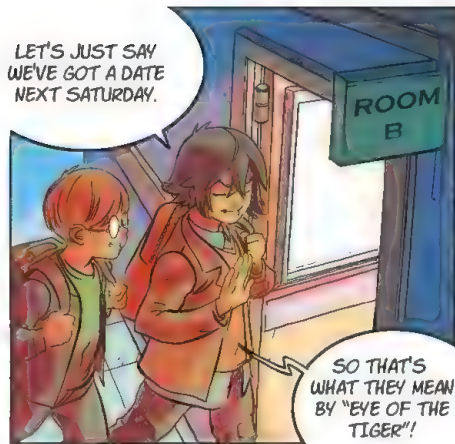


WILL YOU
GO WITH ME?

WH...
ARE YOU KIDDING?
YEAH!





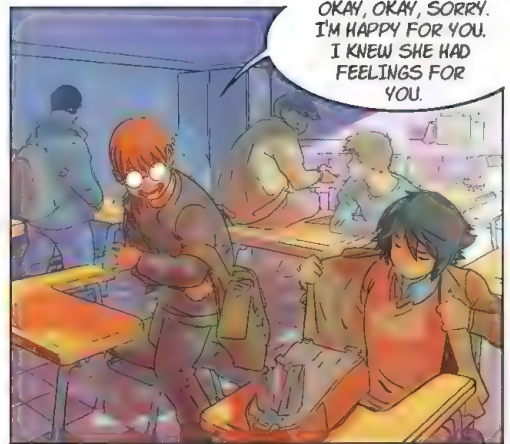


LET'S JUST SAY
WE'VE GOT A DATE
NEXT SATURDAY.

SO THAT'S
WHAT THEY MEAN
BY "EYE OF THE
TIGER"!



HEY! I ALREADY
TOLD YOU TO
DROP IT!



OKAY, OKAY, SORRY.
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
I KNEW SHE HAD
FEELINGS FOR
YOU.



OR
SHOULD I
SAY "FELINES?"
GET IT?
GRR...



LET ME GO!
HE'S GOT THIS
COMING!

THAT'S ENOUGH!
BREAK IT UP! NOW!!



TOMASSINI!



IF I CATCH
YOU FIGHTING
AGAIN --

WHAT?



JUST...
JUST SIT
DOWN.

EVERYONE
TAKE THEIR SEATS
AND OPEN YOUR
BOOKS...

SATURDAY

ANGE?
FRANK'S ON THE PHONE.
YOU STILL NOT TAKING
HIS CALLS?

LISTEN, SILVIO,
I APPRECIATE YOUR
INTEREST, BUT YOU'RE NOT
MY MOTHER, OKAY?
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO CARE.

HEY, FAMILY
IS SACRED.
I DO CARE!

RELAX.
I'M FINE.

I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE
PRETTIEST GIRL IN SCHOOL!

YEAH, AND
YOU'RE GONNA
BE LATE.

BAH, I'LL
JUST STEP ON
THE GAS!

YEAH, POP
FIGURED YOU'D SAY
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
SO HE TOOK A FEW
PRECAUTIONS...

WHAT?

DAN, NO!
DON'T EMBARRASS
ME LIKE THIS!

SORRY, KID.
YOU DON'T HAVE A
LICENSE YET. YOU EITHER
GO ALONE IN THAT,
OR I DRIVE.

SOME
CHOICE...

WATCH THE
SPEEDOMETER,
LEADFOOT!

SHUT UP.

YOU'RE
NOT REALLY
LETTING HIM
GO ALONE.

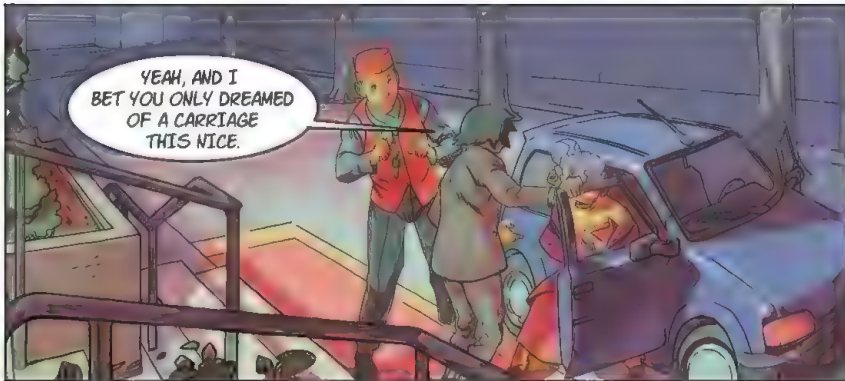
OF COURSE NOT.
BUT YOU'RE OLD MAN ASKED
ME TO LET HIM BREATHE A BIT,
SO I'LL SHADOW HIM FROM
A DISTANCE.



LATER THAT EVENING



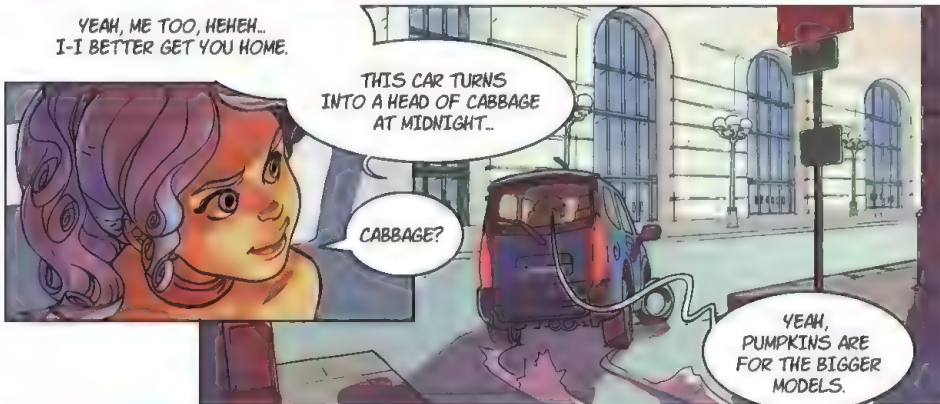
THANKS, ANGE. I HAD A GREAT TIME. BETTER THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD.



YEAH, AND I BET YOU ONLY DREAMED OF A CARRIAGE THIS NICE.



HAHAH, YEAH, RIGHT. SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, I FEEL LIKE I GOT TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

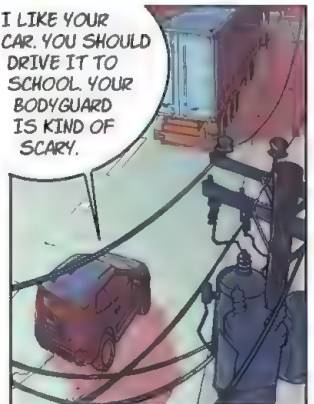


YEAH, ME TOO, HEHEH... I-I BETTER GET YOU HOME.

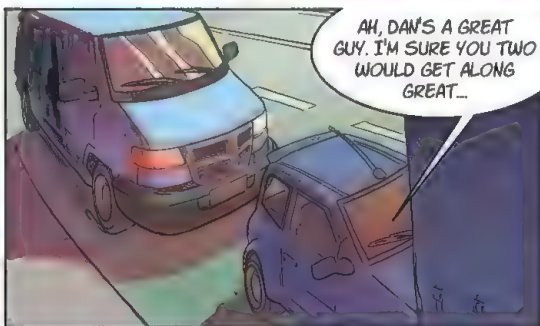
THIS CAR TURNS INTO A HEAD OF CABBAGE AT MIDNIGHT...

CABBAGE?

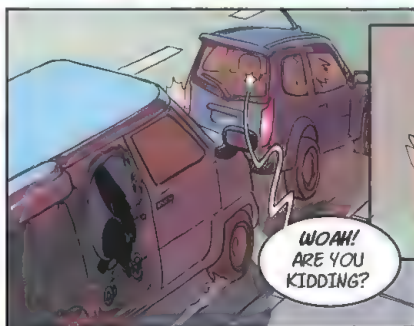
YEAH, PUMPKINS ARE FOR THE BIGGER MODELS.



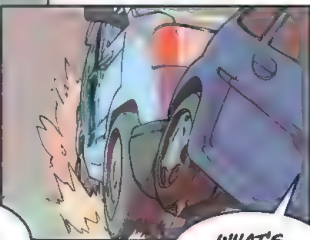
I LIKE YOUR CAR. YOU SHOULD DRIVE IT TO SCHOOL. YOUR BODYGUARD IS KIND OF SCARY.



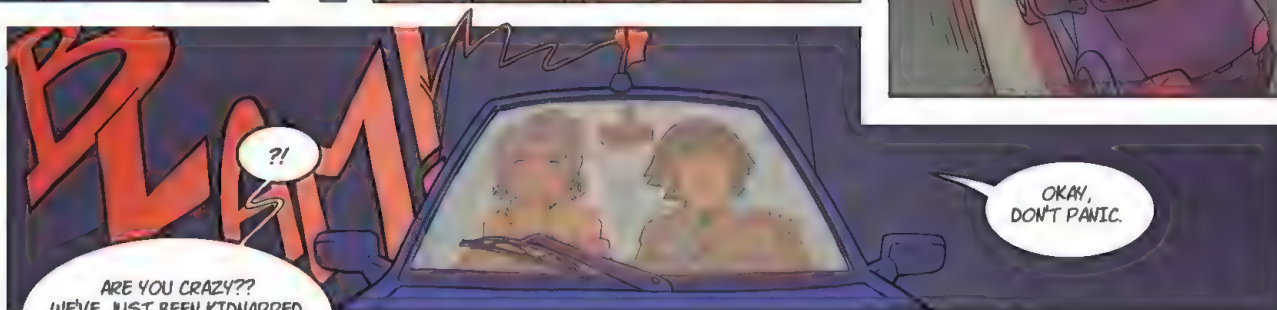
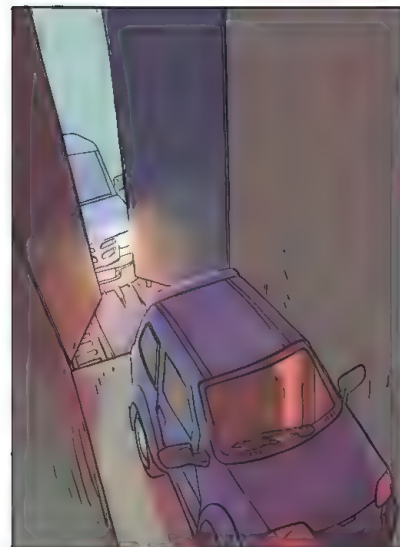
AH, DAN'S A GREAT GUY. I'M SURE YOU TWO WOULD GET ALONG GREAT...



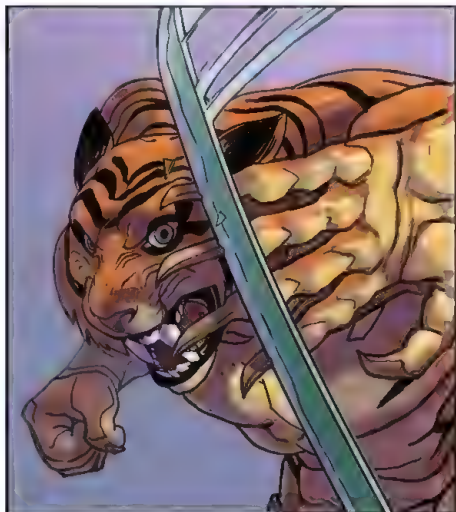
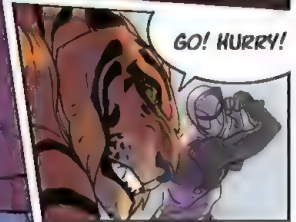
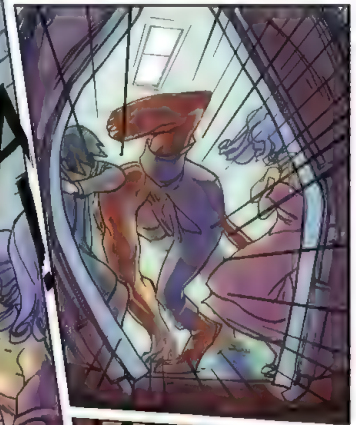
WOAH! ARE YOU KIDDING?

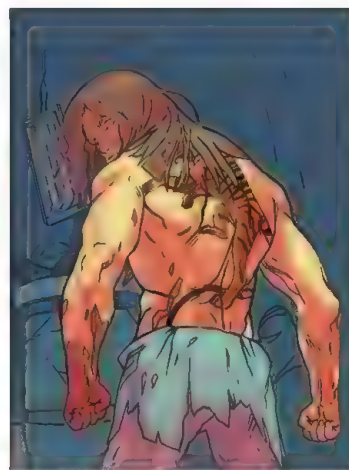
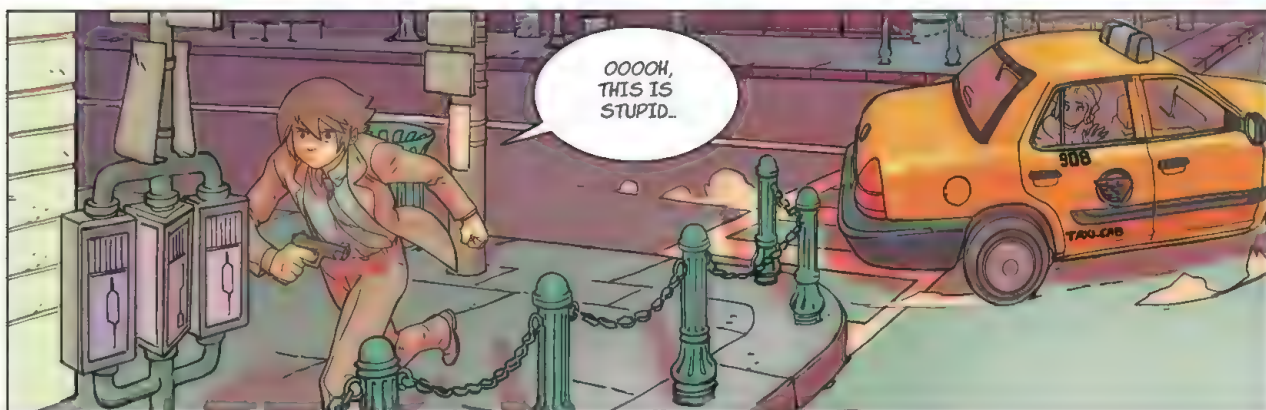


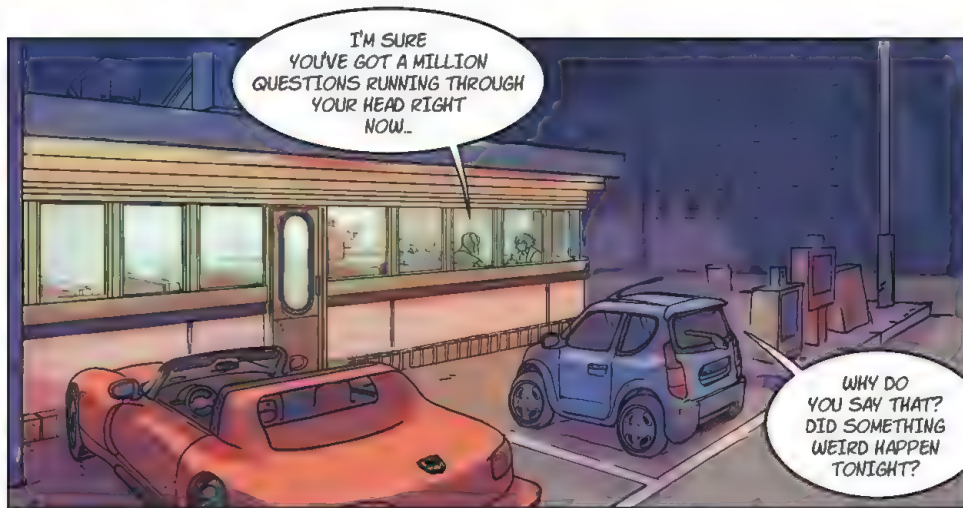
WHAT'S GOING ON?!









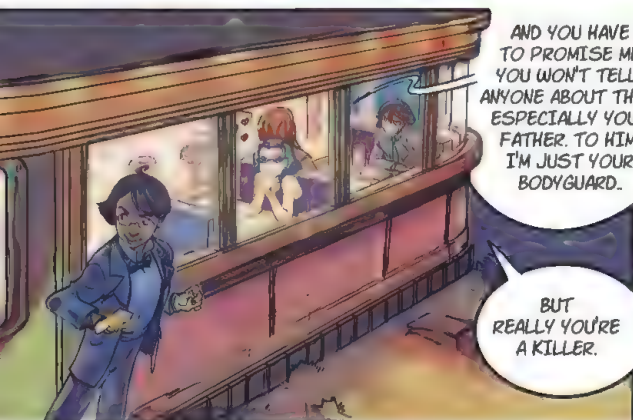
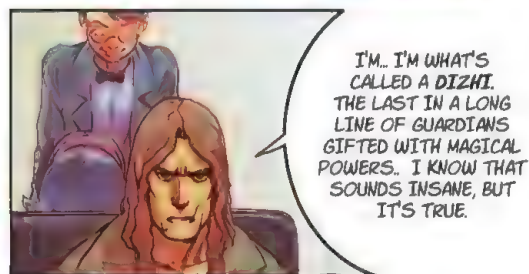
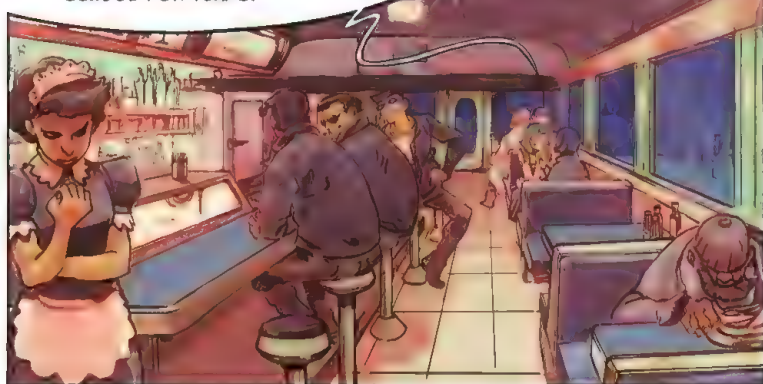


I MEAN, OKAY, YOU TURNED INTO A TIGER. NO BIG DEAL. JOEY'S DAD LOOKS LIKE A FROG...



WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? DID SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPEN TONIGHT?

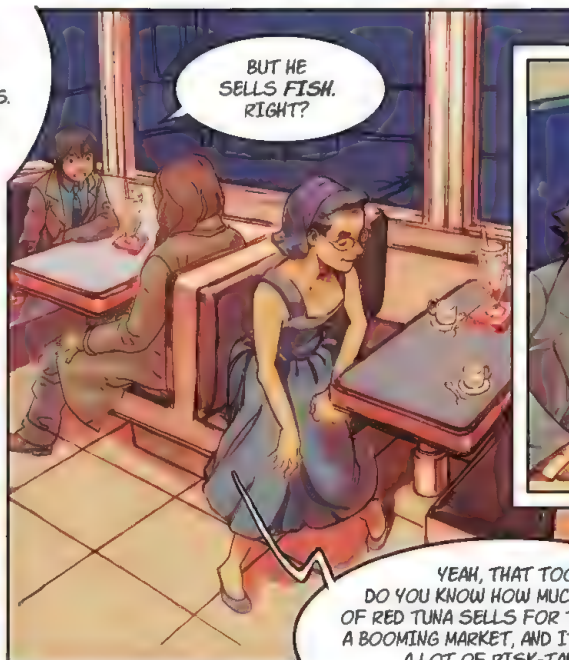
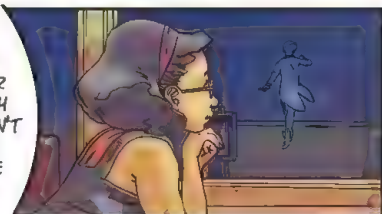
IT'S NOT LIKE LISA'S BOYFRIEND WAS KILLED BY SOME KIND OF MAN-TIGER. OR LIKE I WAS JUST KIDNAPPED BY NINJAS IN PANDA SUITS. OR SAVED FROM THOSE PANDA-NINJAS BY SOME KIND OF MAN-TIGER. WHO HAS BEEN DRIVING ME TO SCHOOL FOR YEARS.



AND YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS. ESPECIALLY YOUR FATHER. TO HIM, I'M JUST YOUR BODYGUARD.

BUT REALLY YOU'RE A KILLER.

YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF TONIGHT -- YOUR DAD'S GOT TOUGH COMPETITION. DON'T BLAME HIM FOR TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

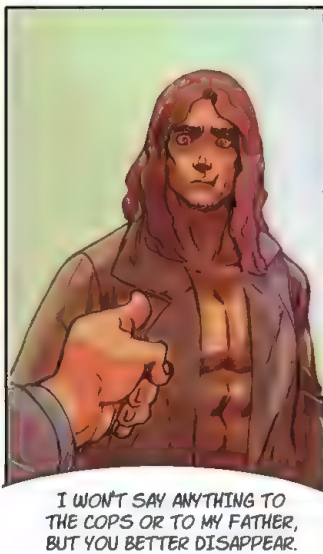
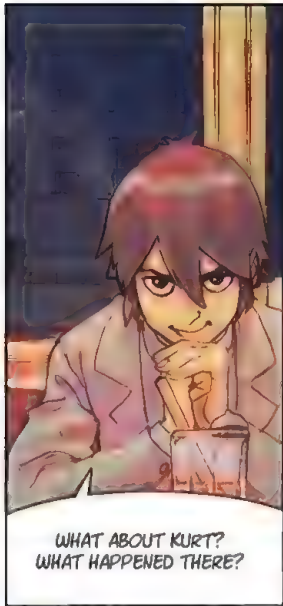


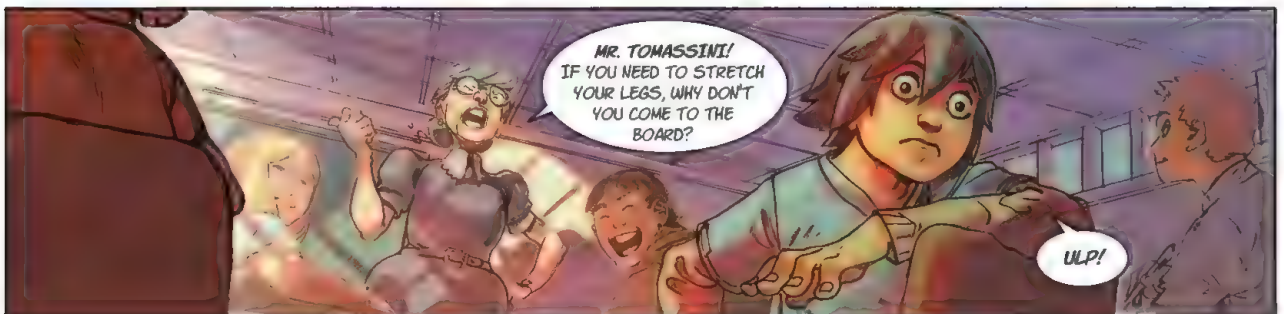
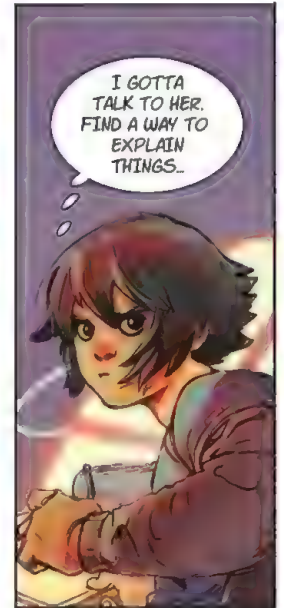
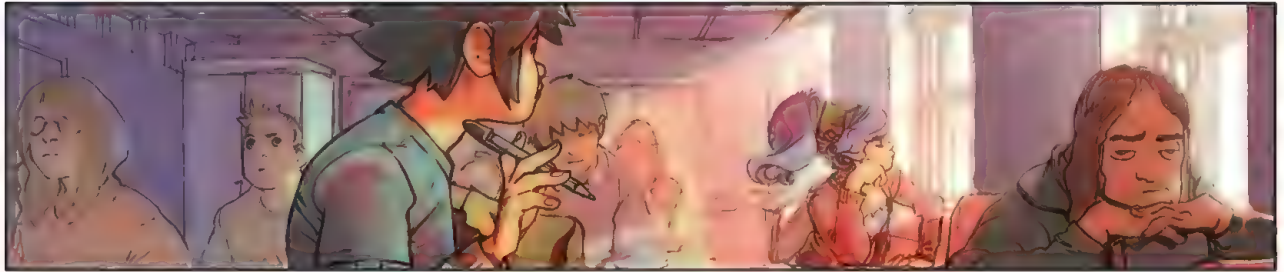
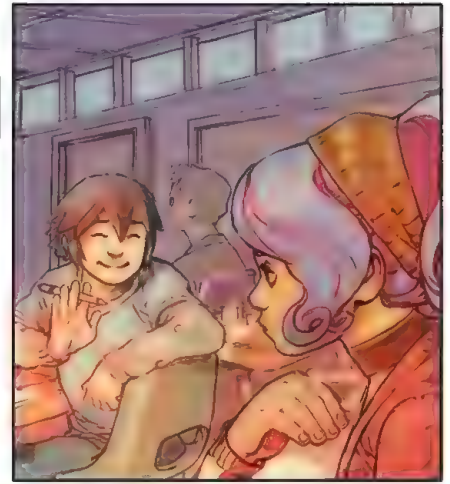
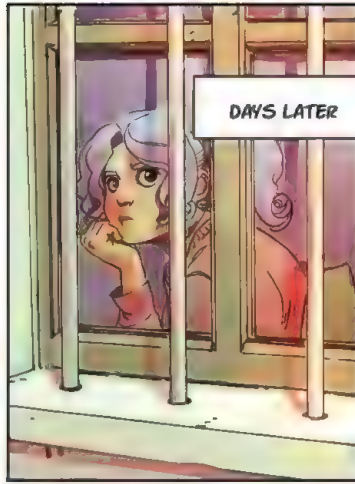
BUT HE SELLS FISH. RIGHT?

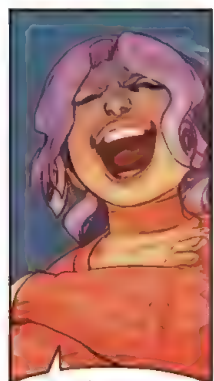
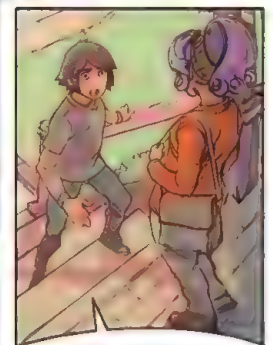
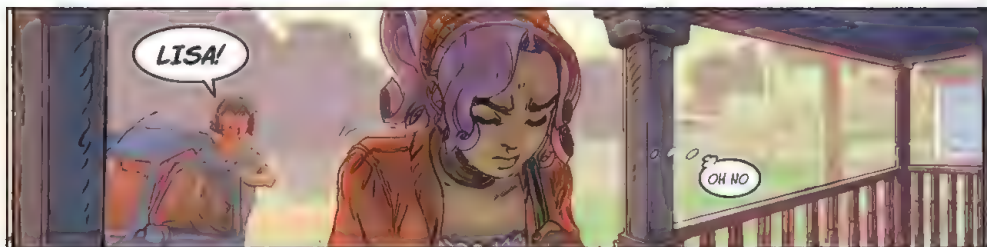
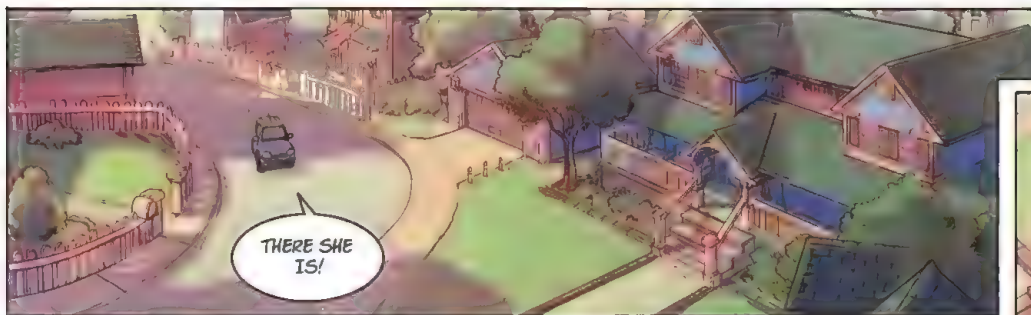
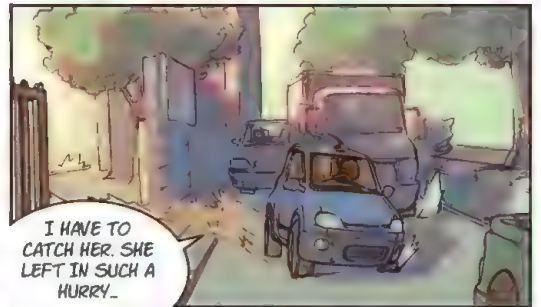
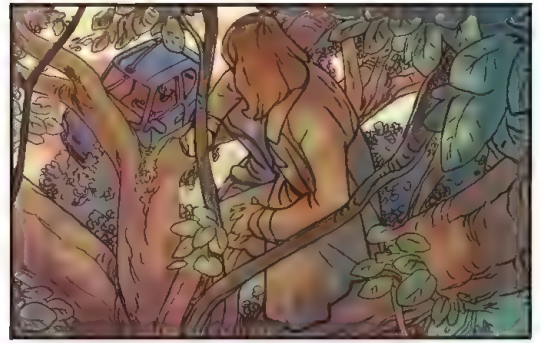


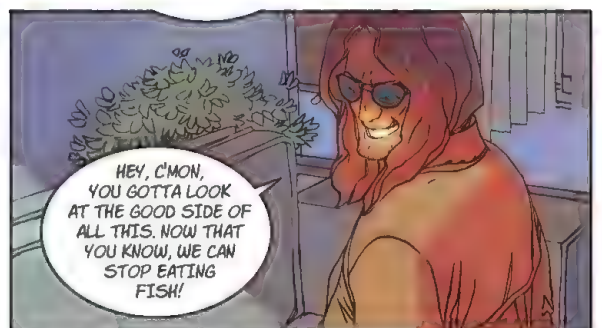
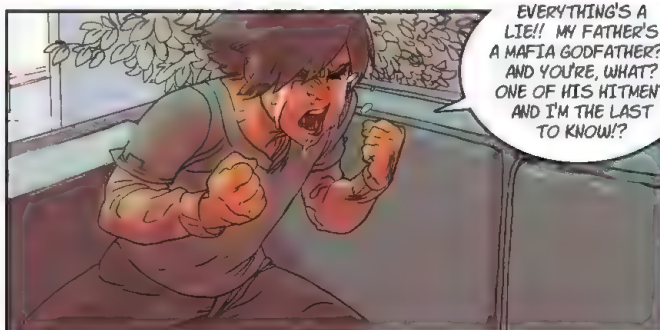
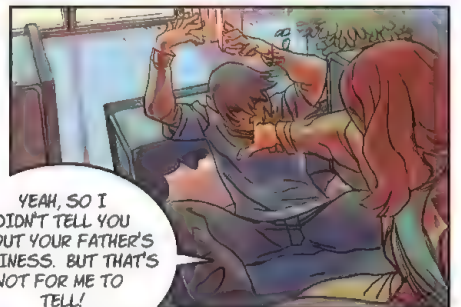
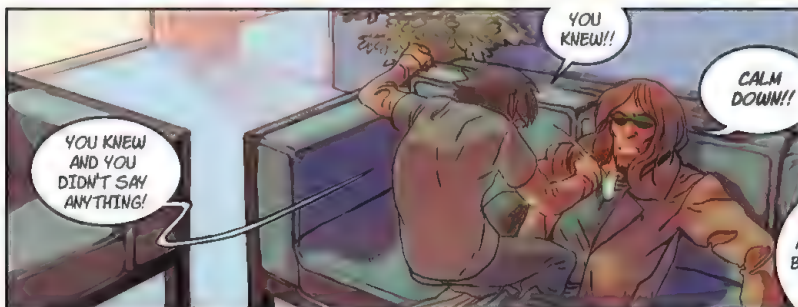
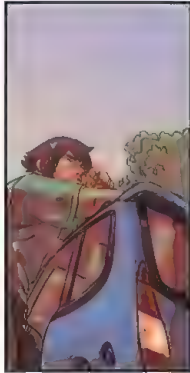
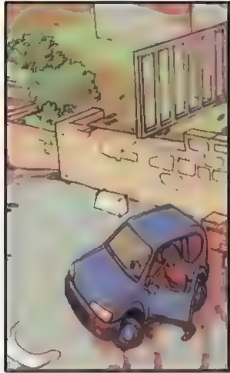
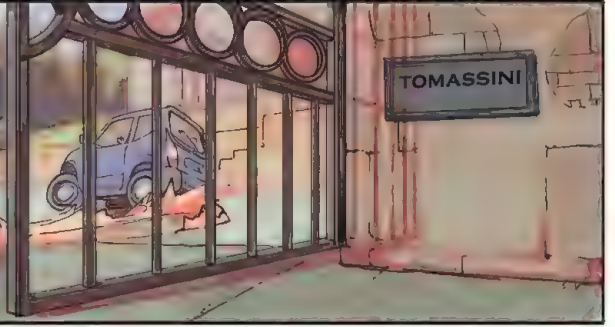
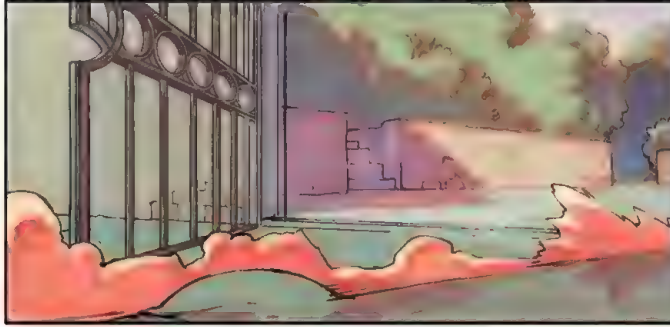
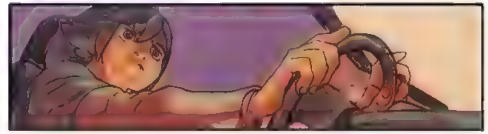
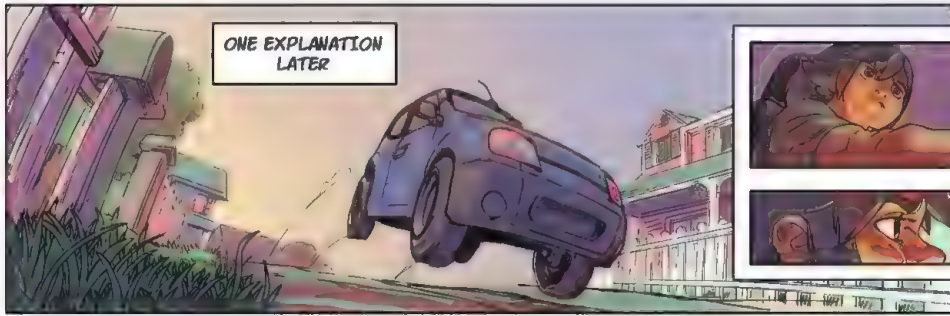
THAT'S NUTS.

YEAH, THAT TOO. DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH A KILO OF RED TUNA SELLS FOR TODAY? IT'S A BOOMING MARKET, AND IT ATTRACTS A LOT OF RISK-TAKERS.









STOP! DON'T YOU GET IT?
EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I
KNEW WAS A. A JOKE! I
TRUSTED YOU, AND YOU
LIED TO ME!

JUST
DOING MY
JOB.



AND WHAT? THREATENING THE GIRL
I LOVE TO MAKE HER GO OUT WITH ME, THAT'S
PART OF YOUR JOB??

I JUST...
I--



WHAT'S,
DAN, WHAT'S
HAPPENING??



DON'T
WORRY.

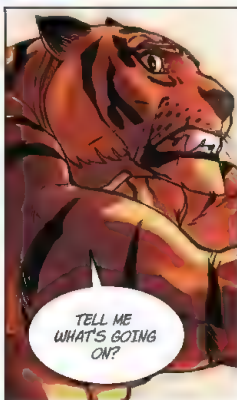
SEEMS ALL
OUR SECRETS
WANNA COME OUT
AT ONCE.



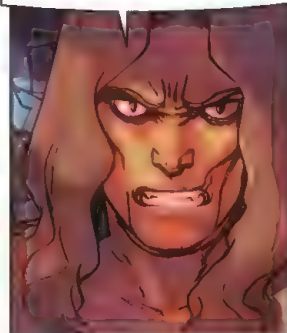
ENOUGH LIES!!



TELL ME
WHAT'S GOING
ON?



OKAY, IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED
THE TRUTH. SIT DOWN.



YOU CAN PROBABLY GUESS THAT I DIDN'T START WORKING FOR YOUR DAD BY ACCIDENT.

I CAME HERE TO PROTECT YOU.

SEE, YEARS AGO, YOUR DAD HEARD ABOUT A CEREMONY... A KIND OF RITUAL THAT CALLED UPON THE ANCESTRAL FORCES OF THE DIZHI. BUT THINGS WENT WRONG.

THE TIGER SPIRIT THAT WAS CALLED SOUGHT THE PUREST SOUL IN THE HOUSE... AND HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE NEWBORN BABY'S ROOM. YOURS.

BUT IN HIS BLINDNESS, HE SEALED YOUR FATE. YOU BECAME A DIZHI.

NOT THAT YOUR FATHER KNEW WHAT HAPPENED. HE JUST FIGURED THE CEREMONY FAILED AND STARTED LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO OBTAIN POWER.

AND I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU, WAITING FOR YOU TO START SHOWING SIGNS SO WE CAN START YOUR TRAINING.

YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO CONTROL YOURSELF BEFORE ANYONE FINDS OUT WHAT YOU ARE

AN ANCIENT, MAGICAL WARRIOR.

AND ONCE YOU'VE MASTERED YOUR POWERS, THERE WON'T BE MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN GET IN YOUR WAY. LIKE ME.

OH YEAH? THEN EXPLAIN WHY AN ANCIENT, MAGICAL WARRIOR LIKE YOU IS STUCK WORKING FOR MY DAD LIKE A MINION?

WHAT AM I?

FOR YOU, KID. FOR YOU.



WHAT?
WHAT'S THAT
LOOK FOR?



JUST SUMMARIZING MY DAY:
A MAFIA DON FATHER, A FAKE
GIRLFRIEND, WERE-TIGER
POWERS. THAT'S A LOT
OF SECRETS TO KEEP..

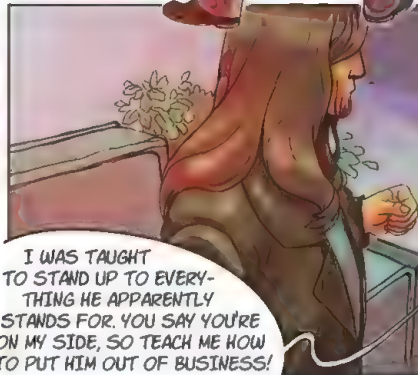
NOT BAD
FOR ONE
DAY!



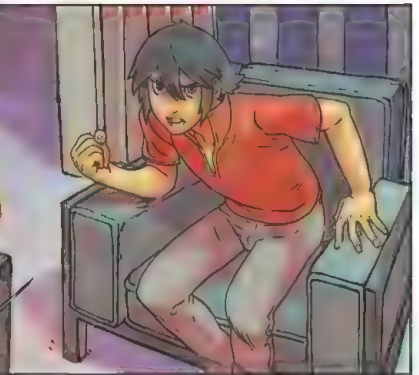
OKAY, SO UNLESS THIS
IS ALL JUST A NIGHTMARE,
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME
FIGHT MY FATHER.



"FIGHT
YOUR FATHER"?
ARE YOU NUTS?



I WAS TAUGHT
TO STAND UP TO EVERY-
THING HE APPARENTLY
STANDS FOR. YOU SAY YOU'RE
ON MY SIDE, SO TEACH ME HOW
TO PUT HIM OUT OF BUSINESS!



ANCE,
I CAN'T..



I DON'T THINK
YOU HAVE A
CHOICE.



COME ON, YOU KNOW HOW
IT GOES, "WITH GREAT
POWER" AND ALL OF
THAT! WE HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY!

I CAN'T JUST
LET CRIME RUN
WILD OUT
THERE!

KID,
IT'S YOUR
DAD!



HE'LL NEVER KNOW
IT'S US. WE'LL ACT IN
THE SHADOWS.

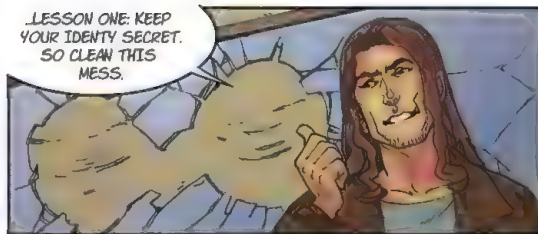
WHAT
DO YOU
SAY?

YOU SAID
IT: I DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE.
I'M IN.

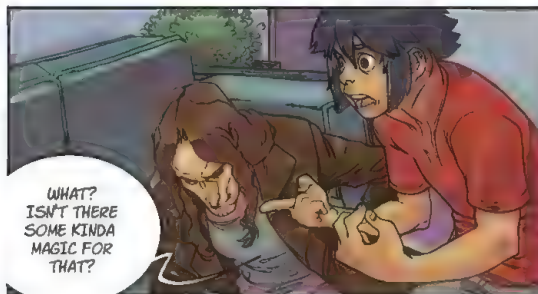


YES!!
SO WHEN DO
WE START
TRAINING?

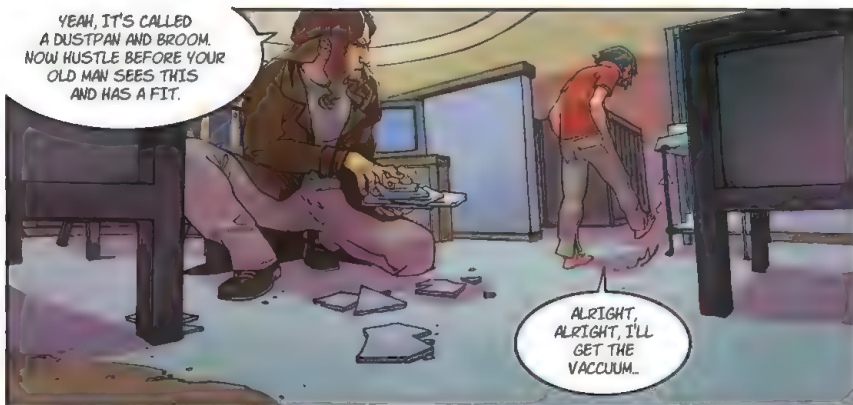
RIGHT
NOW..



LESSON ONE: KEEP
YOUR IDENTITY SECRET.
SO CLEAN THIS
MESS.



WHAT?
ISN'T THERE
SOME KINDA
MAGIC FOR
THAT?



YEAH, IT'S CALLED
A DUSTPAN AND BROOM.
NOW HUSTLE BEFORE YOUR
OLD MAN SEES THIS
AND HAS A FIT.

ALRIGHT,
ALRIGHT, I'LL
GET THE
VACCUUM..



ER... DAN? ONE THING HAS
BEEN BOTHERING ME. HOW COME I DIDN'T
TRANSFORM BACK IN THE TRUCK WHEN WE
WERE IN TROUBLE?



BECAUSE THE
DIZHI WAS IN ME AT THE TIME.
FOR EACH TOTEM, THERE CAN ONLY
BE ONE HOST AT A TIME. IT CAN BE
EITHER ONE OF US, BUT NOT BOTH
AT THE SAME TIME.



"EACH TOTEM"?
YOU MEAN THERE
ARE OTHERS LIKE
US?

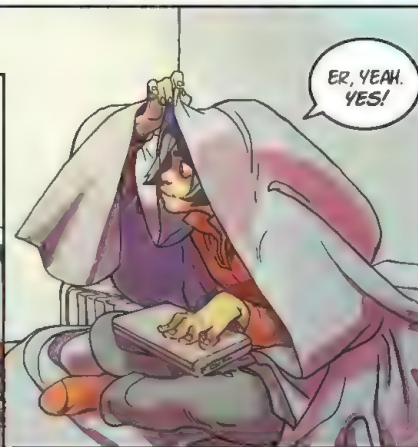
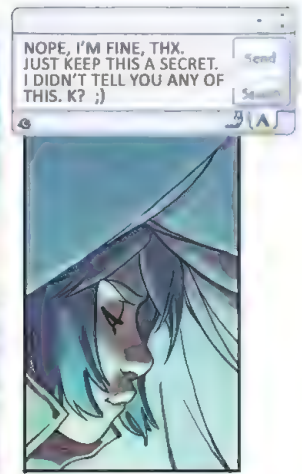
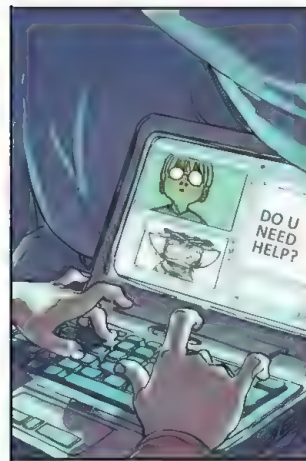
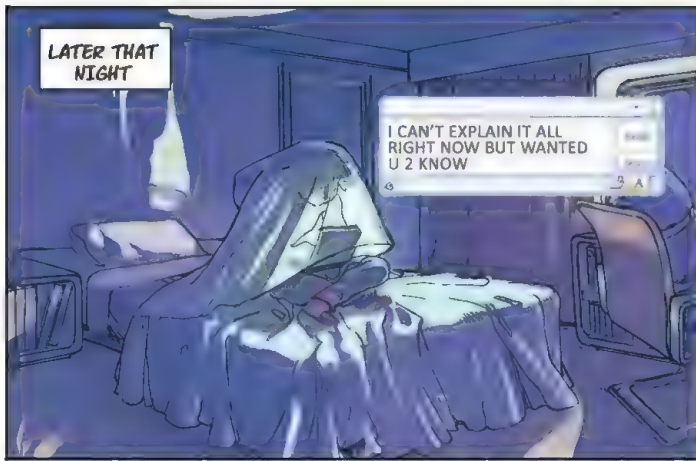
YOU KNOW THE
SIGNS OF THE
ZODIAC? IT'S
KINDA LIKE
THAT.



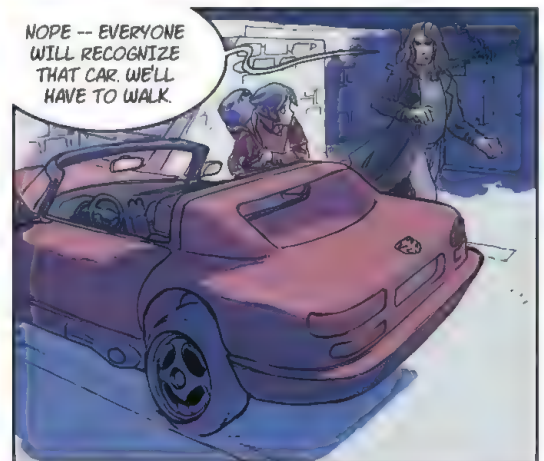
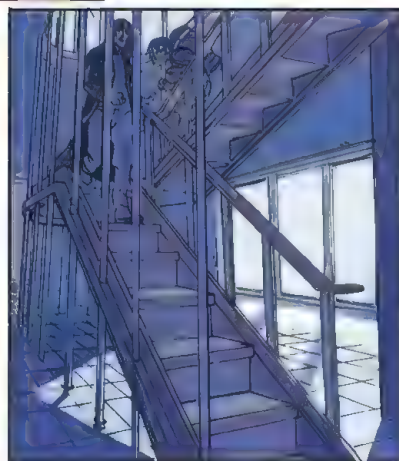
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE
ONE OF THE LAST ONES!



LISTEN, KID.
I KNOW YOU'RE EXCITED
AND ALL, BUT PACE YOURSELF.
YOU'LL LEARN EVERYTHING
SOON ENOUGH.

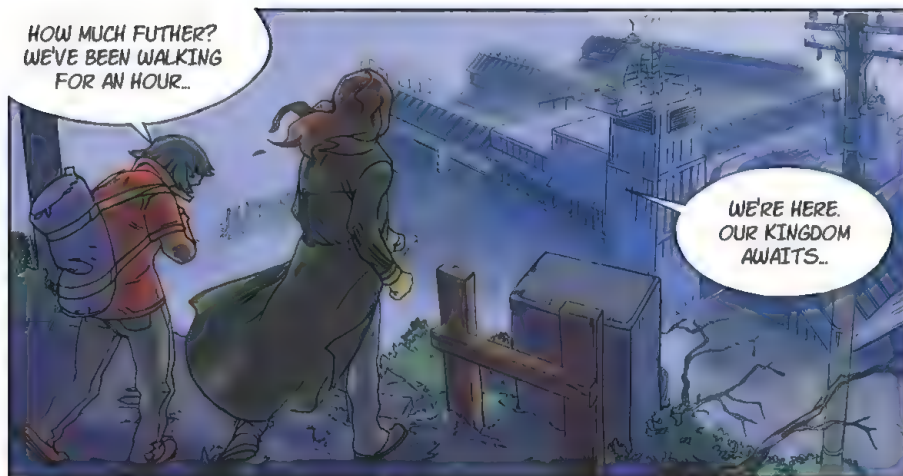


FIRST OFF, I'LL KEEP YOU FROM GETTING DISTRACTED BY YOUR FRIEND'S HOMEWORK. SECOND, YOUR PHONE CAN BE TRACKED.



YOU SURE YOU WANNA DO THIS, KID?





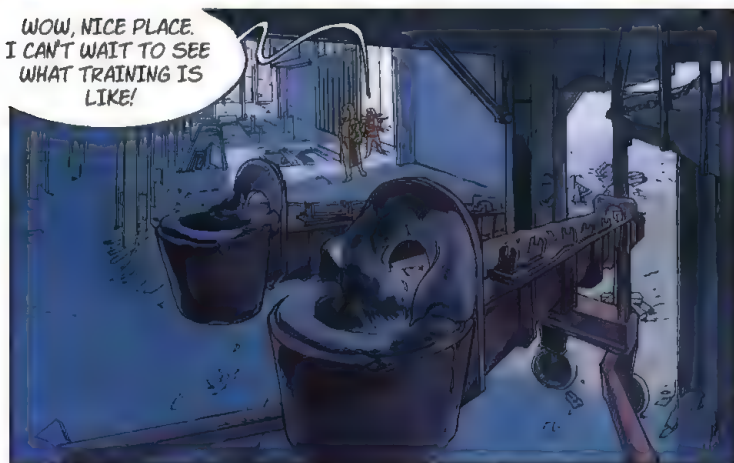
HOW MUCH FUTHER?
WE'VE BEEN WALKING
FOR AN HOUR...

WE'RE HERE.
OUR KINGDOM
AWAITS...



AM I
ALLOWED TO
COMPLAIN?

SURE,
BUT IT WON'T
CHANGE ANYTHING...



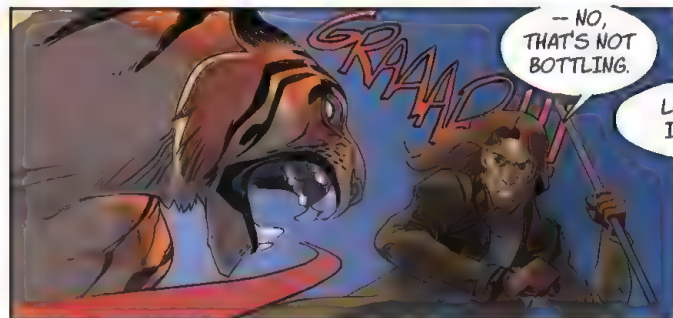
WOW, NICE PLACE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
WHAT TRAINING IS
LIKE!



THEN LET'S
BEGIN!

LESSON
ONE: SELF-
CONTROL.

I'M GONNA
HIT YOU, AND YOU'RE
GONNA TAKE IT. BOTTLE
UP YOUR ANGER AND —



— NO,
THAT'S NOT
BOTTLING.

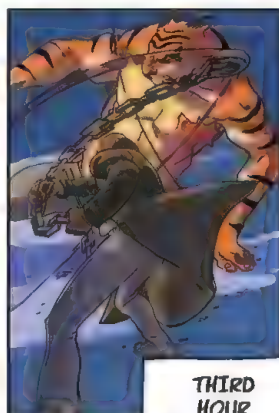
LET'S TRY
IT AGAIN.



FIRST
HOUR



SECOND
HOUR



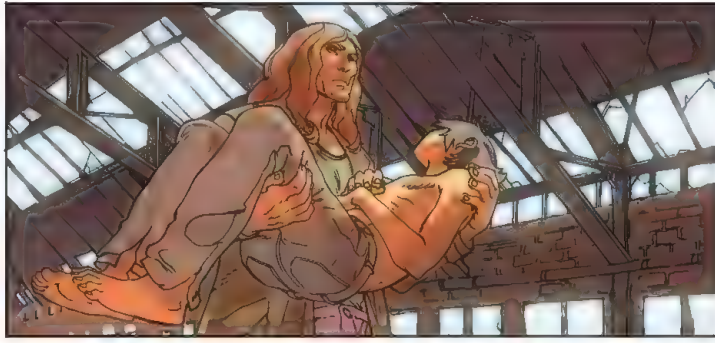
THIRD
HOUR



OKAY...
OKAY, I GET
IT.

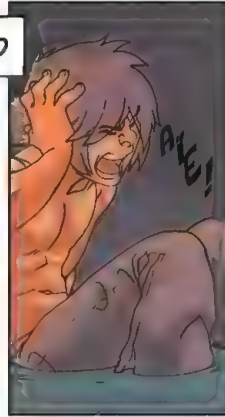


GREAT! END OF
LESSON ONE. GO FIND A
CORNER TO SLEEP IN. I'LL
WAKE YOU UP IN 5 HOURS
FOR LESSON TWO.



MORNING, KID.
THE NEXT LESSON IS
THE OPPOSITE OF
LAST NIGHT'S LESSON -
YOU'LL HAVE TO RELEASE
THE TIGER IN ORDER TO
CLIMB OUT OF THAT
PIT.

LESSON TWO



YOU MIGHT WANNA HURRY,
TOO. IF YOU'RE NOT UP
IN TEN MINUTES, YOU'LL
MISS BREAKFAST!



OOF!

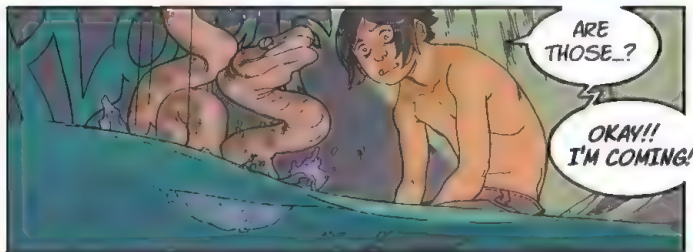


HURRY UP! THE
BACON'S GETTING
COLD!

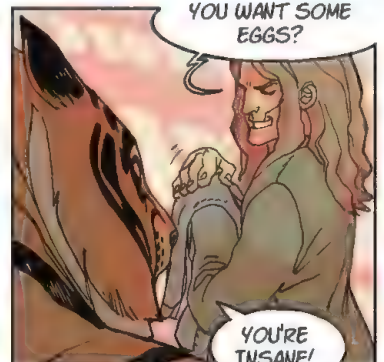


ARE
THOSE...?

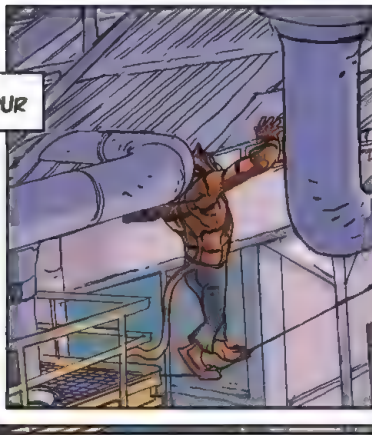
OKAY!!
I'M COMING!



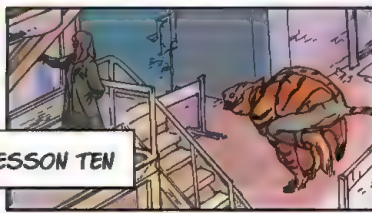
YOU WANT SOME
EGGS?



LESSON FOUR



LESSON TEN



LESSON TWELVE



LESSON SIX



LESSON EIGHTEEN



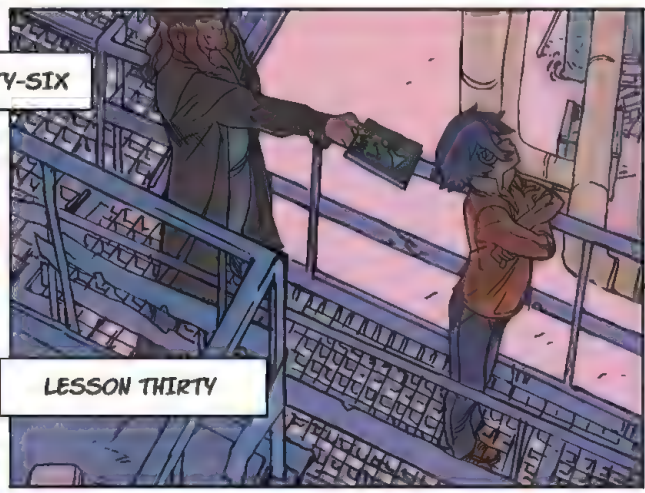
LESSON TWENTY-FOUR



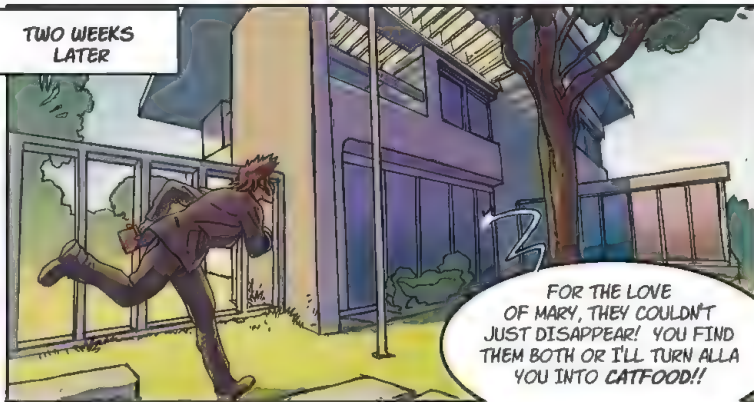
LESSON TWENTY-SIX



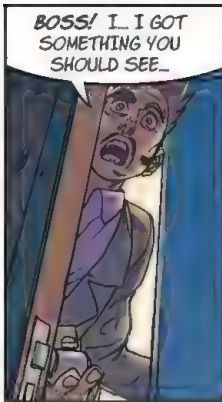
LESSON THIRTY



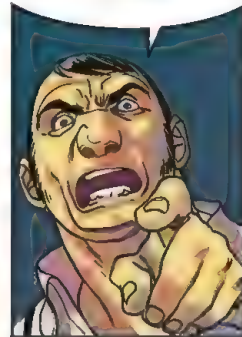
TWO WEEKS
LATER



BOSS! I... I GOT
SOMETHING YOU
SHOULD SEE...



THIS BETTER
BE GOOD!



I-I THINK
YOU'LL LIKE
IT...



SINCE YOUR SON AND DAN DISAPPEARED,
I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO CHANGE THE
POSITION OF OUR SECURITY CAMERAS.
I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE SO AS NOT TO
GIVE THE GAME AWAY.



HEY!
I'M HEAD OF
SECURITY AROUND
HERE!!

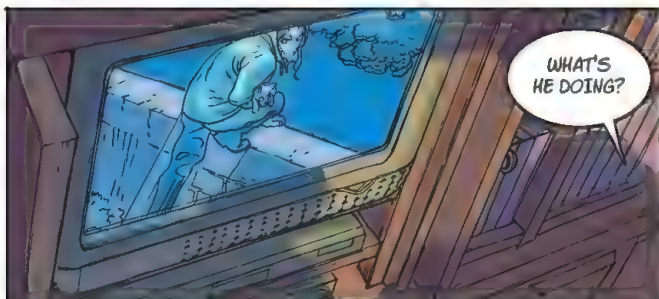


LOOK —
THIS WAS
AT 2 AM.

YOU GOTTA
BE... IT CAN'T
BE!

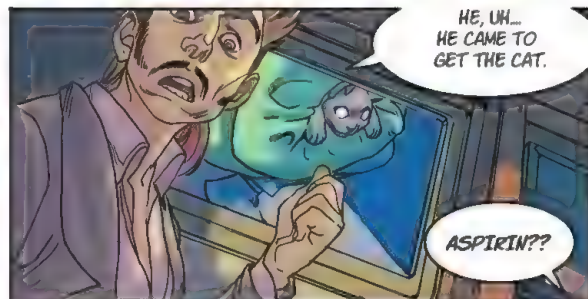


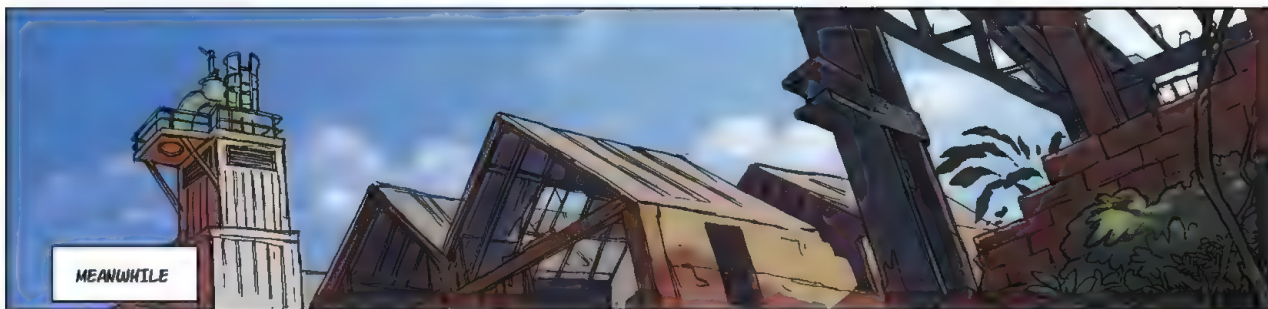
WHAT'S
HE DOING?



HE, UH...
HE CAME TO
GET THE CAT.

ASPIRIN??





MEANWHILE



ALRIGHT, KID.
THE FIRST PHASE OF
YOUR TRAINING IS OVER.
ONE MORE TEST AND WE CAN
GET ON WITH THE REAL
PRACTICAL EXERCISES.

I'M
LISTENING.



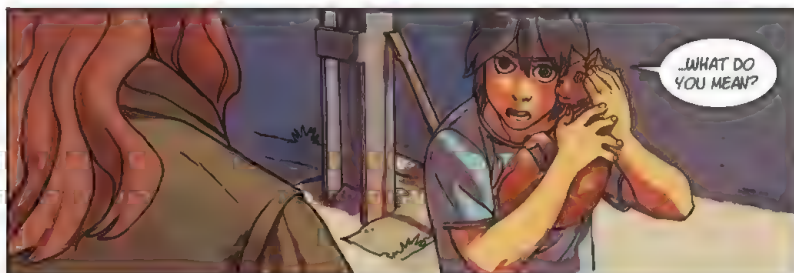
MEOW?

ASPIRIN?

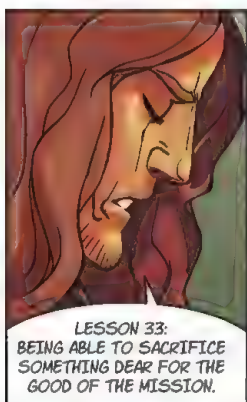


AWESOME!
THANKS FOR
GETTING HIM!
HEY, PAL!

IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
THINK, ANGE



...WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

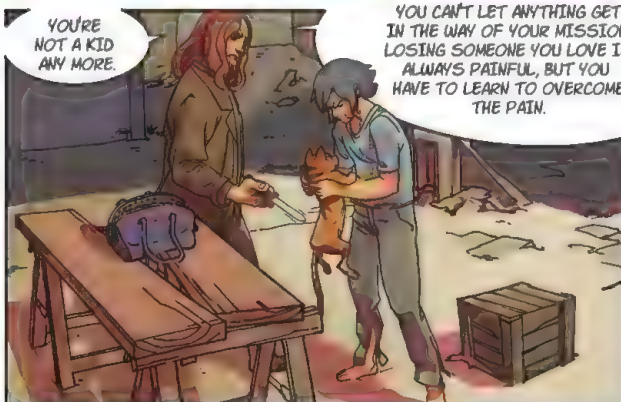


LESSON 33:
BEING ABLE TO SACRIFICE
SOMETHING DEAR FOR THE
GOOD OF THE MISSION.

KILL THE CAT.



WH-WHAT? Y-YOU
CAN'T BE SERIOUS... NOT ASPIRIN..



YOU'RE
NOT A KID
ANY MORE.

YOU CAN'T LET ANYTHING GET
IN THE WAY OF YOUR MISSION.
LOSING SOMEONE YOU LOVE IS
ALWAYS PAINFUL, BUT YOU
HAVE TO LEARN TO OVERCOME
THE PAIN.

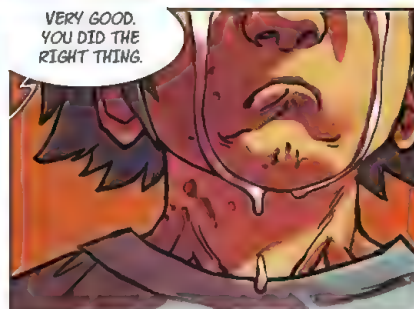


IF YOU CAN'T, WE MAY AS WELL
QUIT RIGHT NOW.

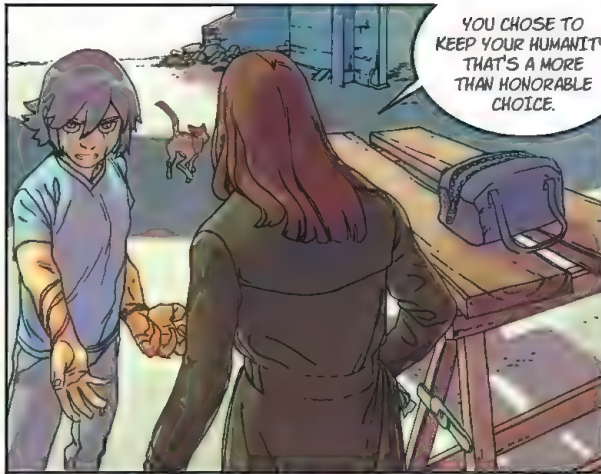


I CAN'T.

NOW!



VERY GOOD.
YOU DID THE
RIGHT THING.

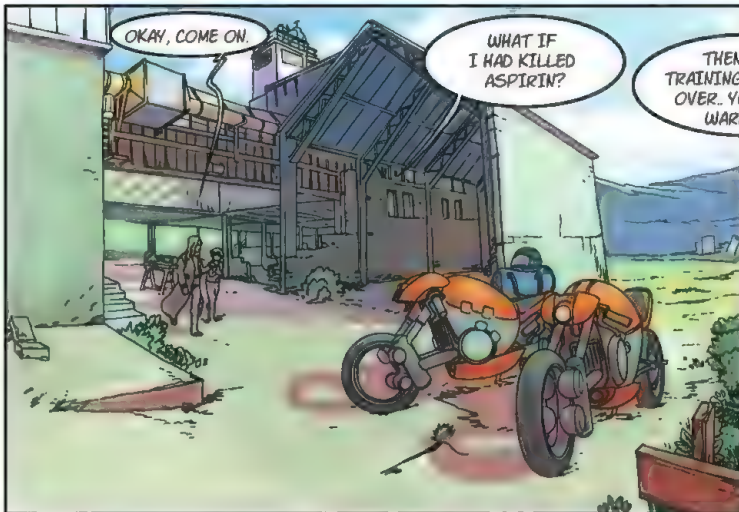


YOU CHOSE TO
KEEP YOUR HUMANITY.
THAT'S A MORE
THAN HONORABLE
CHOICE.



BUT YOU SAID
I NEEDED TO KNOW HOW
TO SACRIFICE --

YEAH, WHEN THE SITUATION
DEMANDS IT. BUT THIS IS JUST TRAINING.
IT WASN'T NECESSARY, AND IT WAS
AN OVER-THE-TOP ORDER..



OKAY, COME ON.

WHAT IF
I HAD KILLED
ASPIRIN?

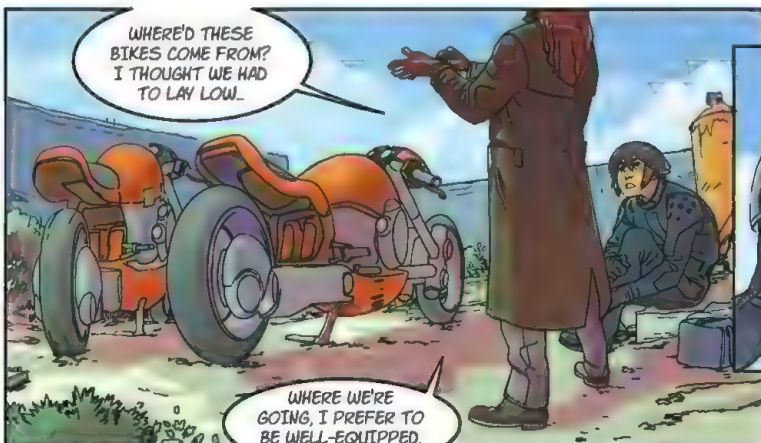
THEN YOUR
TRAINING WOULD BE
OVER. YOU'D BE A
WARRIOR..



..BUT I'D
NEVER TURN MY BACK ON
YOU KNOWING THE MISSION
MEANT MORE THAN OUR
FRIENDSHIP.



HERE, PUT
THIS ON.



WHERE'D THESE
BIKES COME FROM?
I THOUGHT WE HAD
TO LAY LOW..

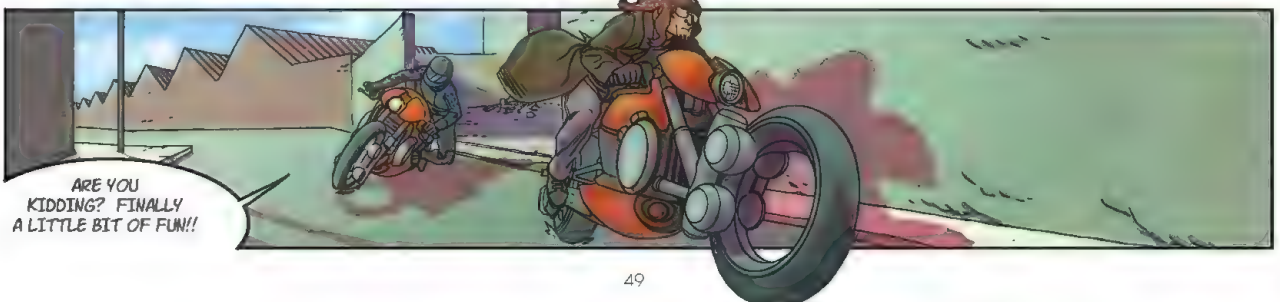
WHERE WE'RE
GOING, I PREFER TO
BE WELL-EQUIPPED.



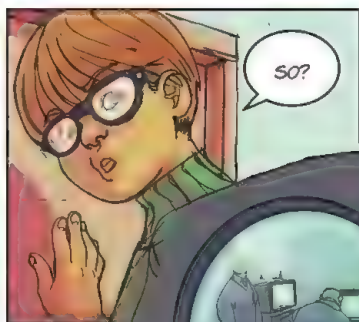
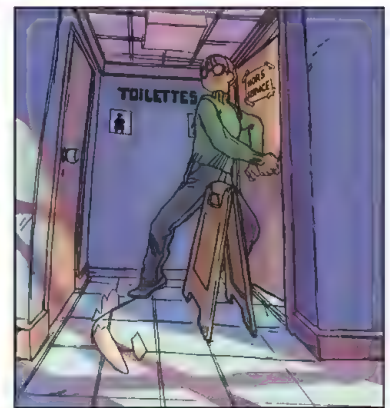
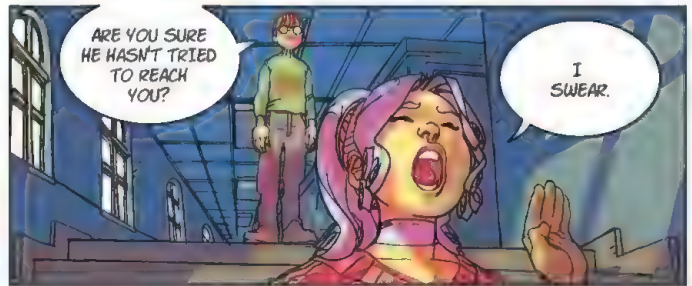
AND
WHERE ARE
WE GOING?



I THOUGHT WE'D TRY
A PRACTICAL EXERCISE.
MAYBE HIT ONE OF YOUR
DAD'S WAREHOUSES.
COOL?



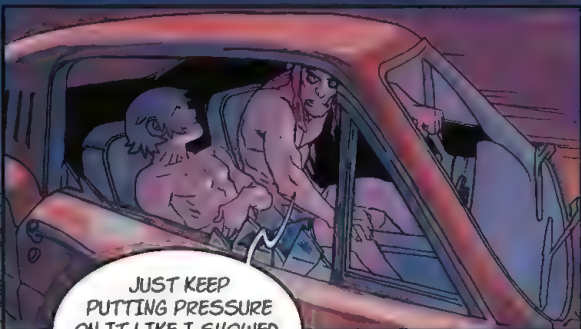
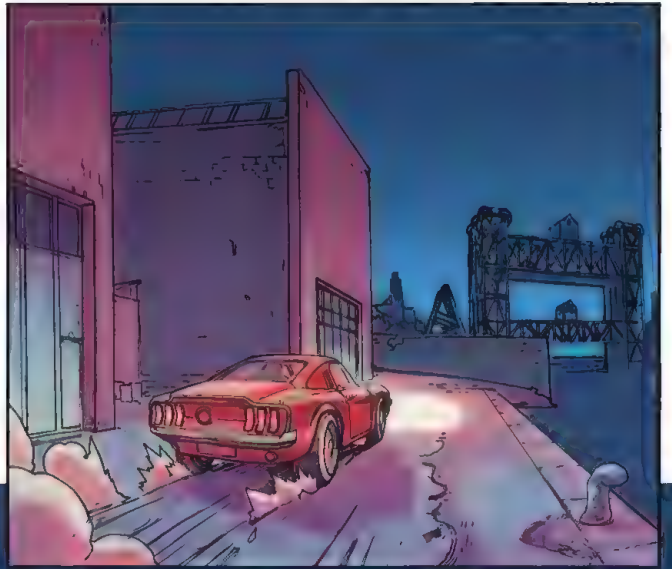
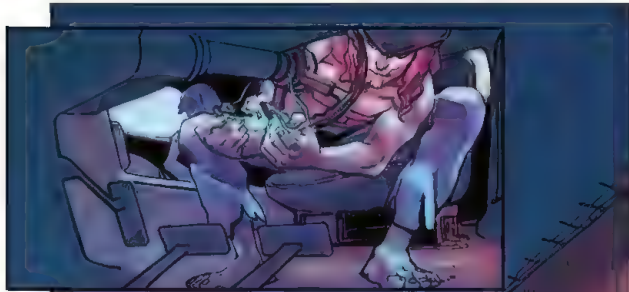
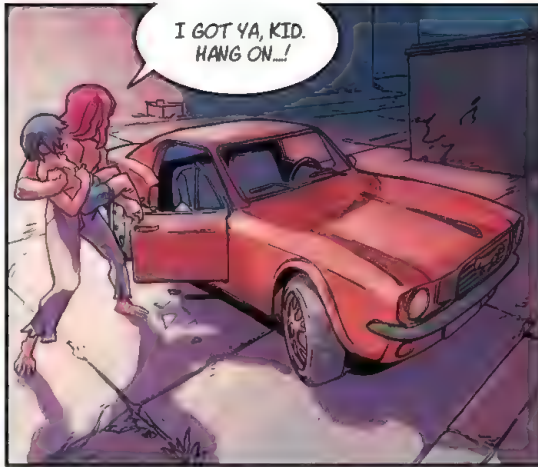
ARE YOU
KIDDING? FINALLY
A LITTLE BIT OF FUN!!





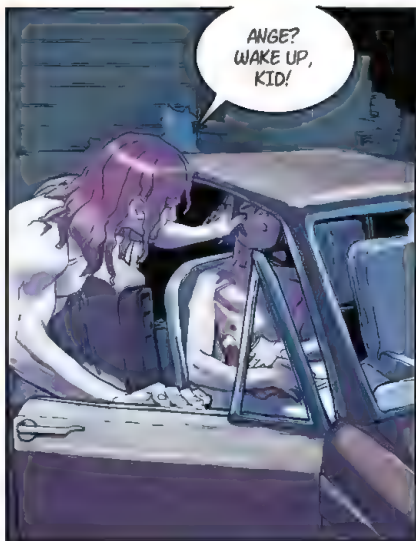
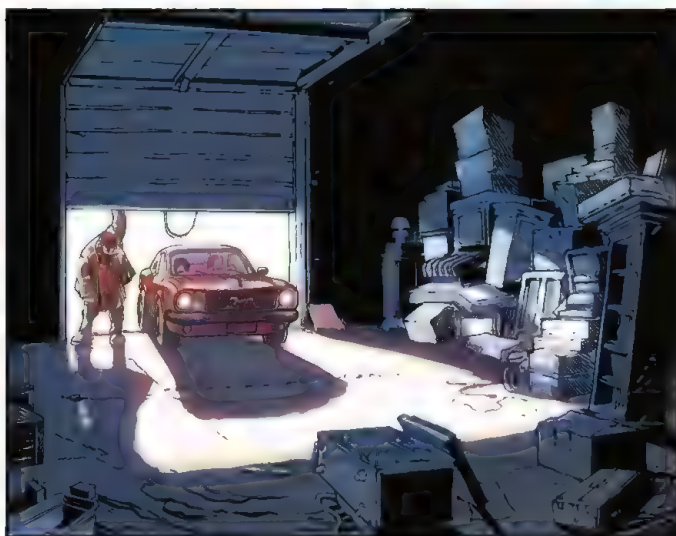
PART TWO: TABULA RASA

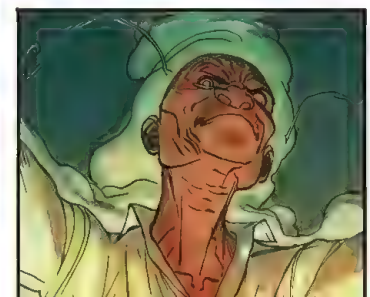
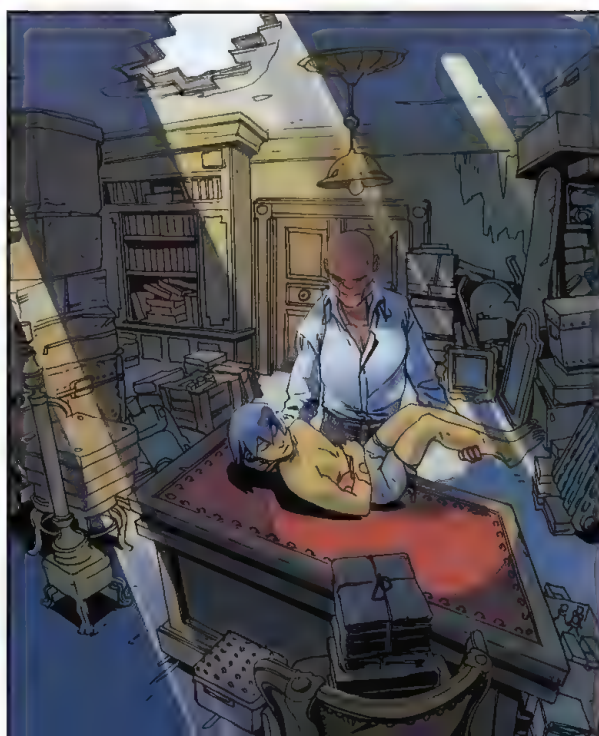
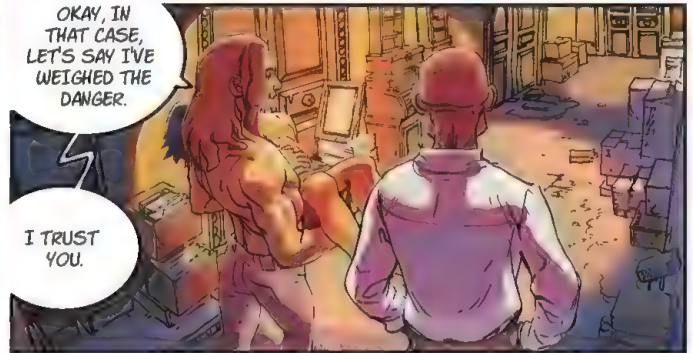
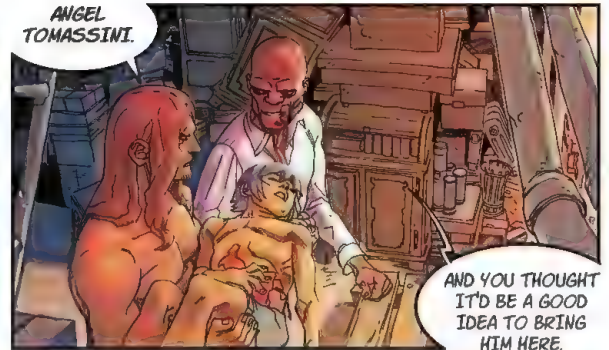
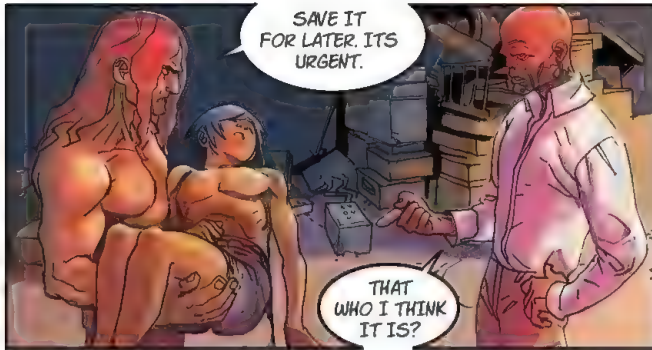


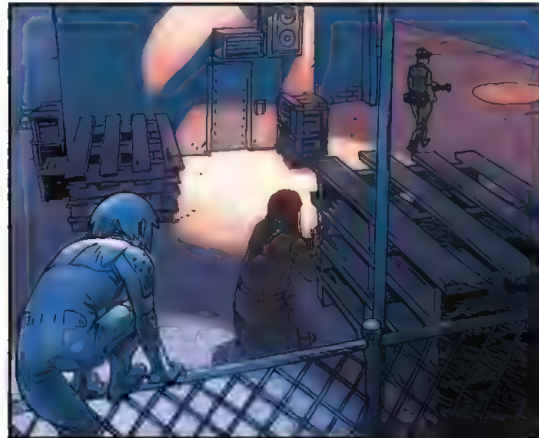
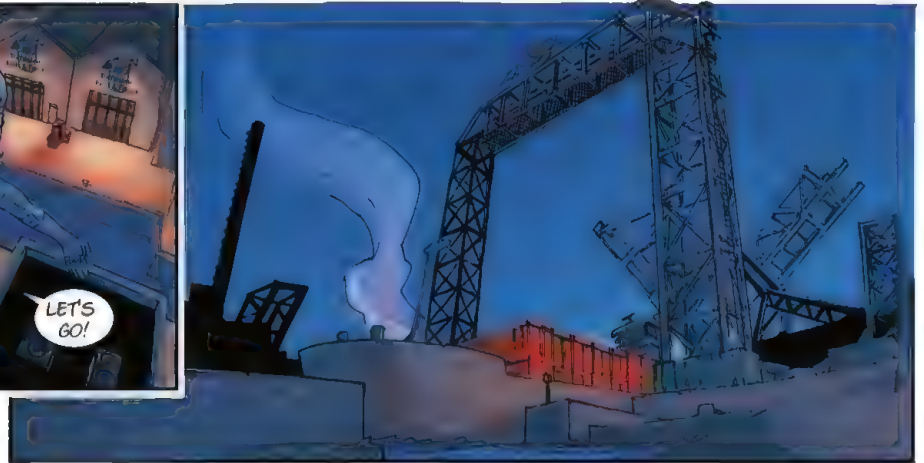


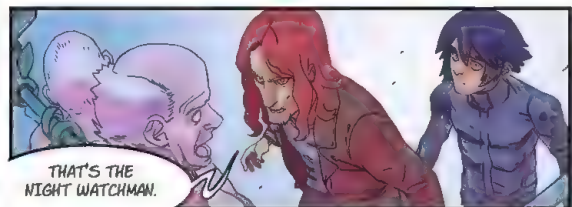
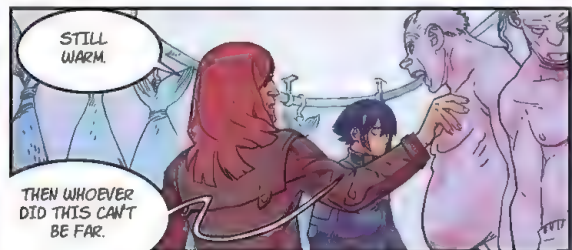
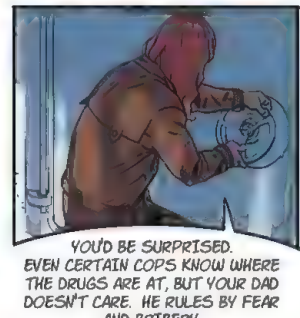
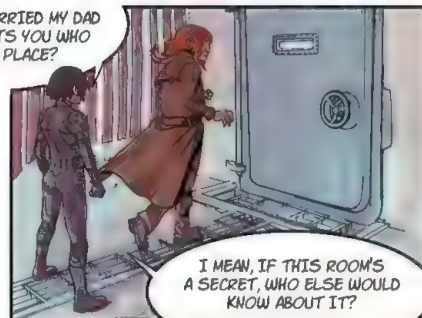
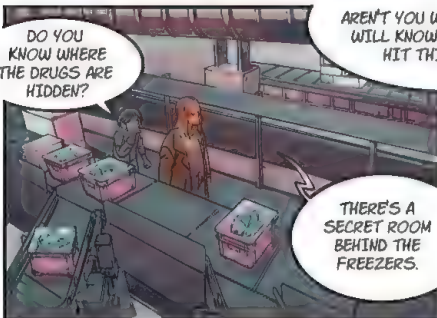
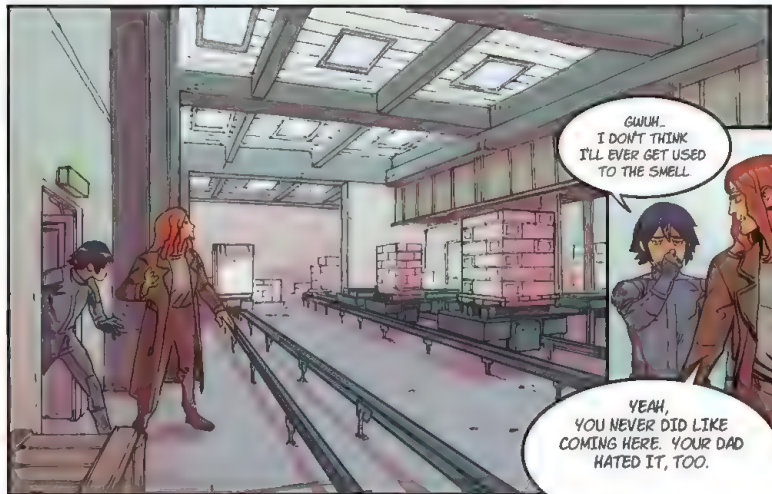
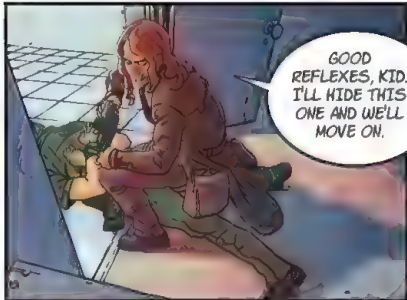
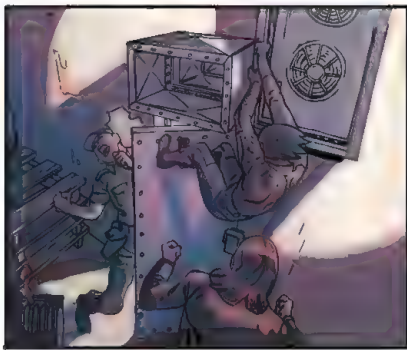
JUST KEEP
PUTTING PRESSURE
ON IT LIKE I SHOWED
YOU. WE'LL BE
THERE SOON!



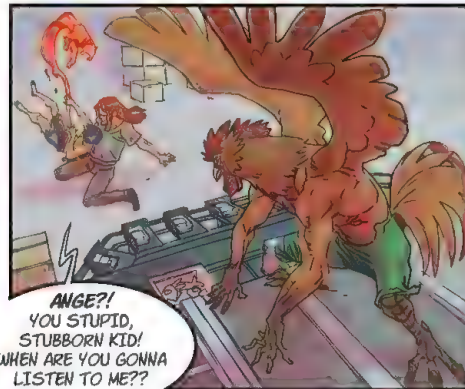
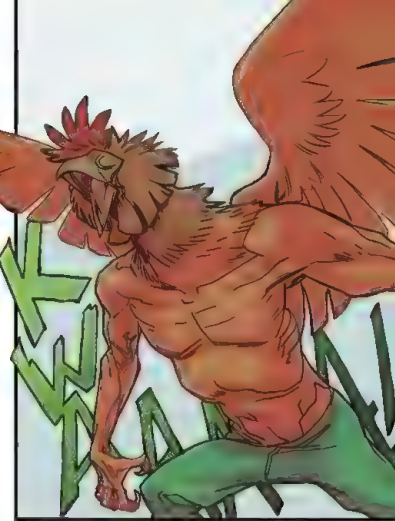


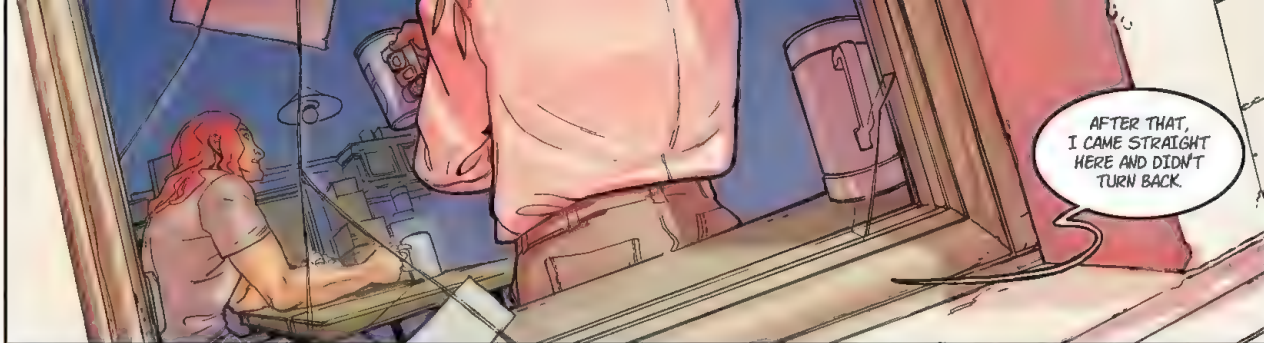












AFTER THAT,
I CAME STRAIGHT
HERE AND DIDN'T
TURN BACK.



THE ROOSTER'S
A REAL HANDFUL,
NO DOUBT.

YOU KNOW
HE WON'T LET
YOU GET AWAY
THAT EASILY.
NOT BEFORE
TAKING YOUR
CHI.



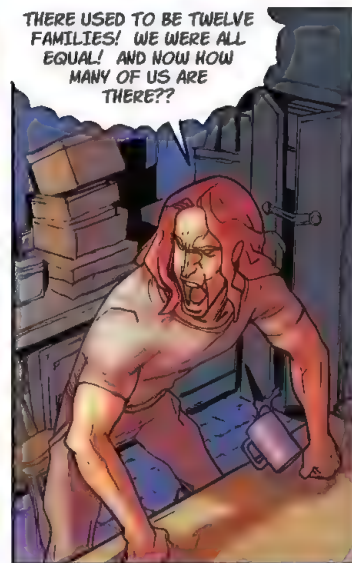
I KNOW.
BUT I'M NOT JUST
GONNA HIDE. A GOOD
OFFENSE IS THE
BEST DEFENSE.

IF YOU
SAY SO.



LOOK, WHATEVER
YOU DO, DON'T TELL
ME YOUR PLANS. AND
IF YOU'RE COUNTING
ON MY HELP, LOOK
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

EVERYONE
THINKS I DIED
IN THE FIRE, AND
I'D PREFER TO
KEEP IT THAT
WAY.



THERE USED TO BE TWELVE
FAMILIES! WE WERE ALL
EQUAL! AND NOW HOW
MANY OF US ARE
THERE??



HIDING FROM
EACH OTHER ONLY
MAKES US ALL WEAKER!
YOUR COWARDICE
MAKES ME SICK!



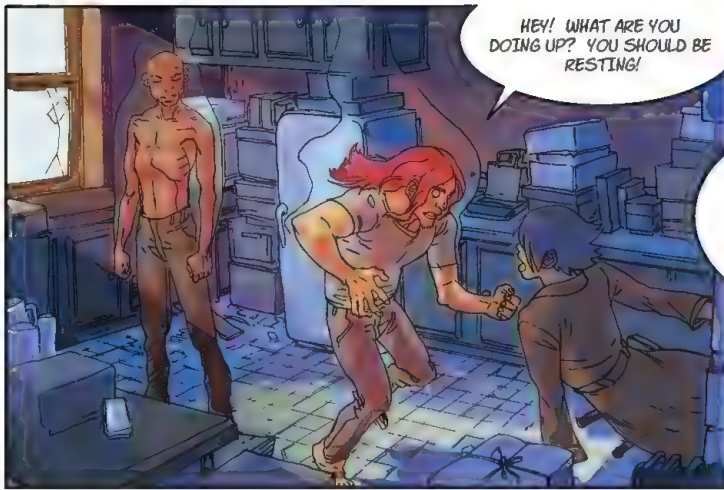
I'M ASKING
MYSELF WHY I'M
HOLDING BACK.



TAKE YOUR BEST
SHOT. IF YOU WANNA
THROW DOWN, WE'LL END
IT HERE!



FOR A COUPLE
OF DUDES IN
HIDING, YOU SURE
MAKE A LOT
OF NOISE.



HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP? YOU SHOULD BE RESTING!



YOU CAN STAY UNTIL THE KID'S ON HIS FEET AGAIN. BUT DON'T COUNT ON ME TO GO TO WAR WITH YOU.

THE WAR'S ALREADY BEGUN. BUT THANKS FOR THE SHELTER.



DAN... I'M SORRY. I --

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HAWLEY TOOK CARE OF YOU. GET SOME REST AND YOU'LL BE ON YOUR FEET AGAIN IN NO TIME.



HAWLEY... IS HE A DIZHI TOO?

YOU GOTTA TELL ME MORE.

THAT CAN WAIT. YOU REALLY HAVE TO GET SOME --



NO! I WANT TO KNOW NOW.



BOY, YOU ARE A STUBBORN ONE.

BUT OKAY. I GUESS YOU SHOULD KNOW EVERYTHING.

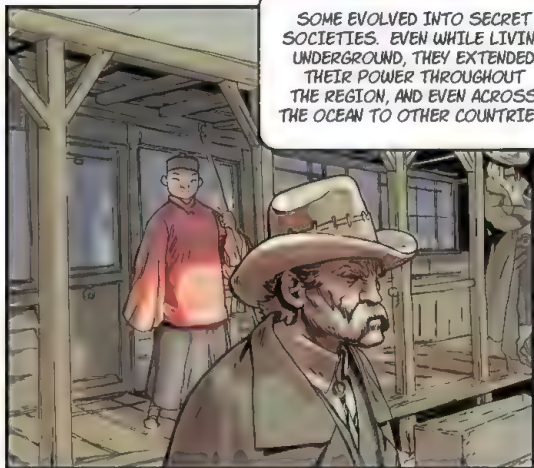
AT FIRST, THERE WERE TWENTY-FOUR FAMILIES RULING ALL OF ASIA. EACH FAMILY HAD ITS OWN TOTEM, WHICH WAS REPRESENTED BY A SINGLE WARRIOR AND ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. THEY WERE CALLED "DIZHIS".

OVER THE YEARS, TWELVE OF THE TOTEMS GRADUALLY DISAPPEARED. DON'T ASK ME HOW, I DON'T KNOW. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE REMAINING TOTEMS INSPIRED THE SIGNS OF CHINESE ASTROLOGY.





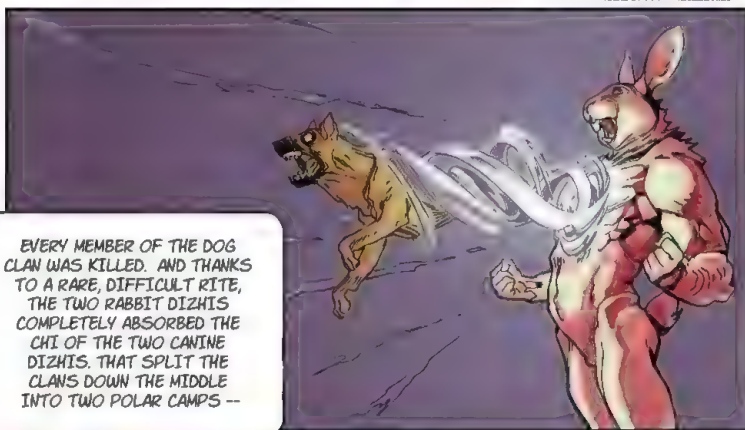
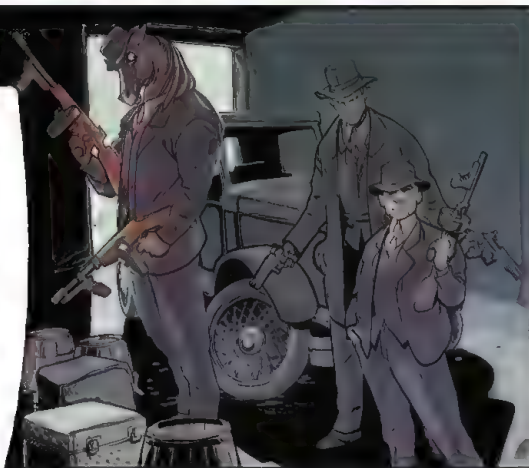
DURING THE AGE OF COLONIALISM, THE WEST CAME TO SETTLE ON OUR LANDS, MAKING A BIG MESS OF OUR TRADITIONS. THE TWELVE FAMILIES WENT INTO HIDING, AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE TWELVE TRIADS.



SOME EVOLVED INTO SECRET SOCIETIES. EVEN WHILE LIVING UNDERGROUND, THEY EXTENDED THEIR POWER THROUGHOUT THE REGION, AND EVEN ACROSS THE OCEAN TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN TIME, SOME OF THE TOTEMS WERE TRANSFERRED INTO NON-ASIAN HOSTS, AND THEY BECAME MORE AND MORE CRIMINAL IN NATURE.

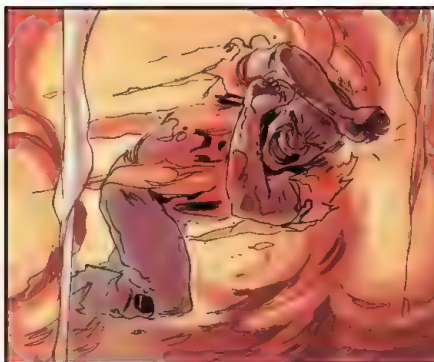
SOON, A WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE FAMILIES. THE RABBIT CLAN WAS THE FIRST TO ATTACK ANOTHER FAMILY.



EVERY MEMBER OF THE DOG CLAN WAS KILLED. AND THANKS TO A RARE, DIFFICULT RITE, THE TWO RABBIT DIZHIS COMPLETELY ABSORBED THE CHI OF THE TWO CANINE DIZHIS. THAT SPLIT THE CLANS DOWN THE MIDDLE INTO TWO POLAR CAMPS --



THOSE WHO WANTED AS MUCH POWER AS POSSIBLE, HUNTING DOWN AND ABSORBING THE OTHER FAMILY DIZHIS, AND THOSE WISER FAMILIES WHO REFUSED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER FOR FEAR OF UPSETTING THE BALANCE.



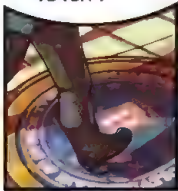
THE WISE ONES WERE FORCED INTO HIDING, ABANDONING THEIR CLAWS IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM SAFE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO HAWLEY -- HE'S A DIZHI WARRIOR FROM THE DRAGON CLAN. ALL THE OTHER TRIBES THINK HE'S DEAD.

BUT BY ABANDONING HIS TRIBE, HE WEAKENED HIS TOTEM. FOR A FAMILY OF PROUD HUNTERS HE'S PROBABLY THE MOST VULNERABLE OF US NOW.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE OTHERS ARE?

LET ME PUT THIS SIMPLY: IF YOU'RE HERE, YOU KNOW ABOUT "OPERATION: TOTEM".



WE'VE MADE VERY LITTLE HEADWAY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, DESPITE TOP-LEVEL SECURITY CLEARANCE AND THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF SECRECY. WE'VE BARELY MANAGED TO IDENTIFY A FEW FLEETING MEMBERS OF TRIAD FAMILIES HARBORING A DIZHI.

AND THAT DOESN'T EVEN INCLUDE THE CLANS WHO REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN THIS MAD RACE FOR ULTIMATE POWER. IF YOU COUNT THEM, WE'RE LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE TOTEMS.

WHAT WE DO KNOW AS OF TODAY IS THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO DIZHIS IN THE AREA.

THE SOKUMO FAMILY ARE HARBORING THE TOTEM OF THE ROOSTER. IT IS AN AGGRESSIVE BEAST THAT WE SUSPECT MAY HAVE ABSORBED THE PIG DIZHI.

NEXT IS THE TOMASSINI FAMILY, WHO WE BELIEVE MAY HARBOR THE TIGER.

WE'VE HAD A JUNIOR AGENT UNDERCOVER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW MONITORING A MINOR WHO WE BELIEVE FITS THE PROFILE OF A YOUNG DIZHI.

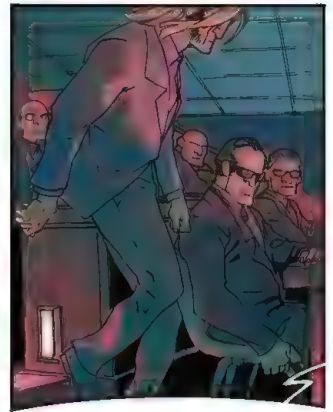
UNFORTUNATELY, THE SUSPECT HAS DISAPPEARED.

WE BELIEVE THERE WAS A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE ROOSTER AND THE TIGER EARLIER THIS EVENING IN A WAREHOUSE OWNED BY TOMASSINI. IT APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED IN STALEMATE, WITH BOTH TOTEMS SURVIVING THE DUEL.

WE'RE NOW CONCENTRATING ALL EFFORTS ON RECOVERING THE YOUNG TOMASSINI BEFORE HE COMES TO HARM. TO BE CLEAR, THIS ISN'T MERELY FOR HIS OWN SAFETY...

...BUT IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE ROOSTER DOES NOT INCREASE ITS OWN POWER.

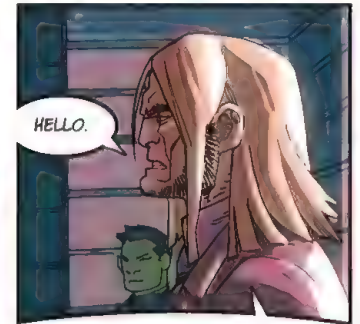
TO ASSIST IN THIS RECOVERY OPERATION, WE HAVE BROUGHT IN A NEW ASSET ON LOAN FROM INTERPOL. HE HAS BEEN PURSUING DIZHI ACTIVITY WITH SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL CASES UNDER HIS BELT.



I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO WELCOME HIM TO THE TEAM AS IF HE'S BEEN WITH US SINCE THE BEGINNING.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AGENT OSWALD JONES.



I'M GONNA SKIP THE USUAL PLEASANTRIES AND ASK YOU TO DO ONE THING FOR ME: FORGET EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE DIZHIS.

FOR ONE THING, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A "PACIFIST TOTEM". THEY'RE ALL SOLDIERS AND WARRIORS, CREATED FOR ONE THING AND ONE THING ONLY: WINNING WARS. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY'RE KILLING EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE.



OUR MISSION IS TO STOP THEM. TO DESTROY THEM COMPLETELY.



CLEARLY THIS WON'T BE EASY. WE KNOW THAT WHEN YOU KILL ONE OF THEM, THE DIZHI CHI LEAVES ITS BODY AND SEEKS A NEW HOST.



...SO WE NEED TO CAPTURE THEM ALL, ONE BY ONE. AND ONCE WE HAVE THEM ALL, WE EXTERMINATE THEM EN MASSE.





I'VE ALREADY IDENTIFIED AND LOCATED A NUMBER OF FAMILIES, INCLUDING THE RAT, THE PIG, THE HORSE, AND THE DRAGON.



I'VE ADDED YOUR TWO TOTEMS, THE ROOSTER AND TIGER.

IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE RAT ABSORBED THE OX, AND THE RABBIT ABSORBED THE DOG, THAT LEAVES FOUR TOTEM LEFT TO LOCATE. NOW, EVEN IF WE KNOW WHERE TO FIND THEM —



EXCUSE ME...

YES?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WE HAVE EVIDENCE SUGGESTING THE DRAGON IS DEAD.

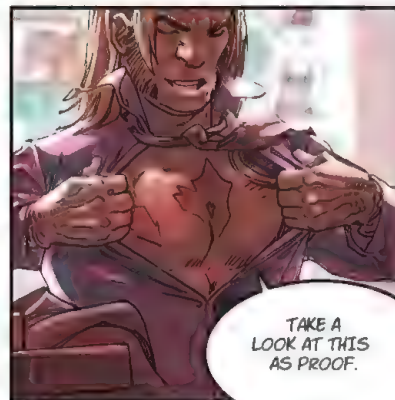
HEH, "ALL DUE RESPECT"? HAH. OKAY, LIKE EITHER OF US GIVES A DAMN ABOUT THE OTHER... THE DRAGON IS NOT DEAD.



HOW DO YOU KNOW?



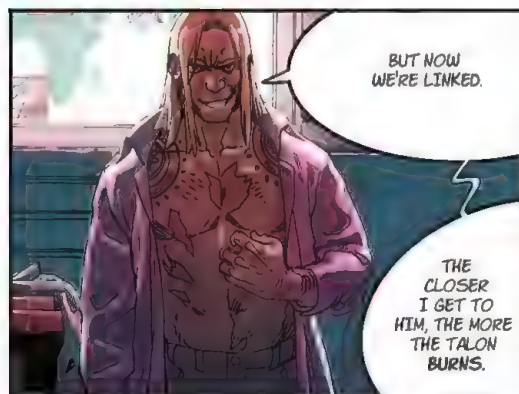
LET'S JUST SAY HE AND I CARRY A GRUDGE THAT LINKS US ON A SPIRITUAL LEVEL.



TAKE A LOOK AT THIS AS PROOF.

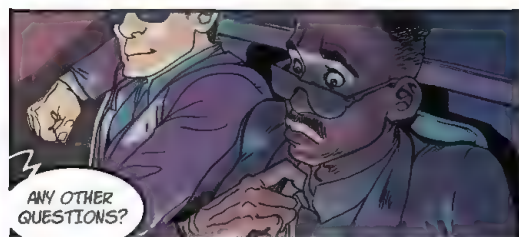


HE LEFT A TALON IN MY CHEST THE LAST TIME WE MET. JUST ABOVE MY HEART. IF I TAKE IT OUT, I'LL DIE.

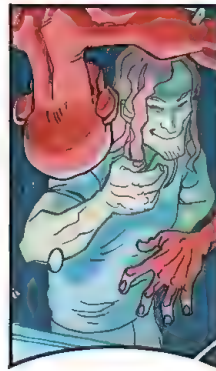
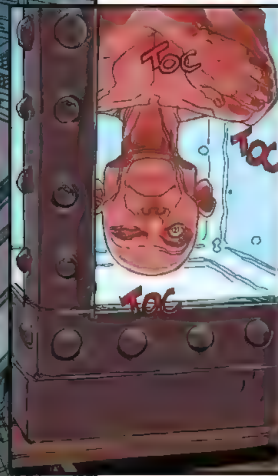
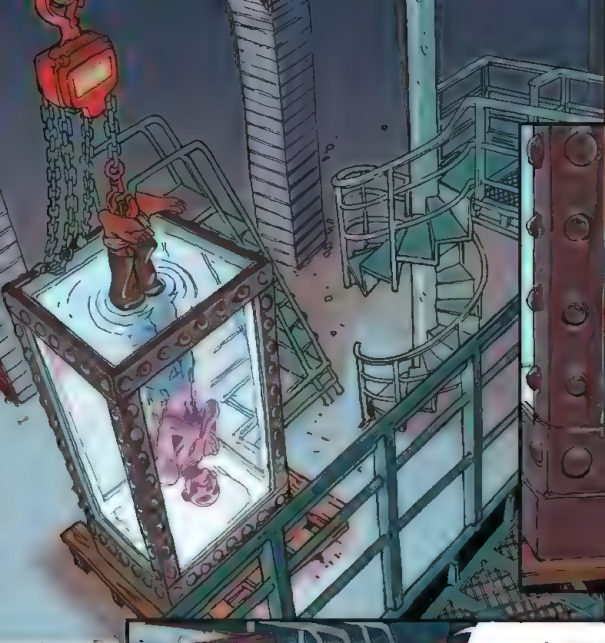


BUT NOW WE'RE LINKED.

THE CLOSER I GET TO HIM, THE MORE THE TALON BURNS.



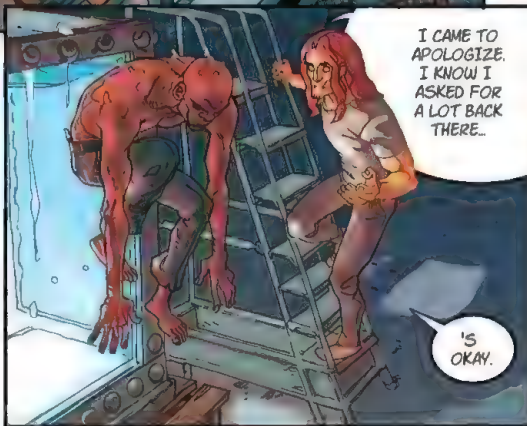
ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?



STILL PRACTICING
YOUR TALENTS WITHOUT
CHANGING FORM?



AND GETTING
BETTER AT IT,
TOO.

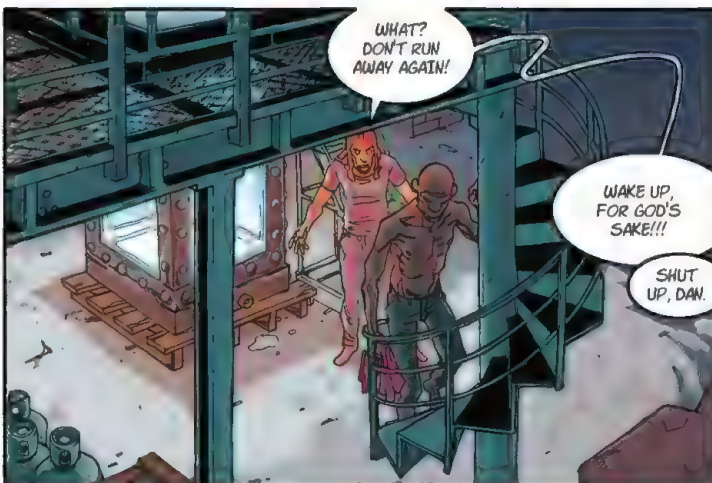


I CAME TO
APOLOGIZE.
I KNOW I
ASKED FOR
A LOT BACK
THERE...

'S
OKAY.



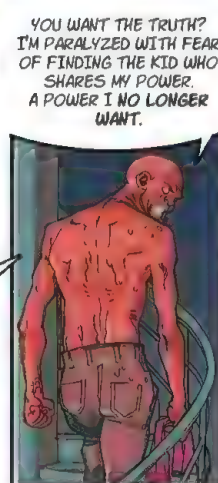
SO... HAVE YOU
FOUND YOUR DIZHI
PARTNER?



WHAT?
DON'T RUN
AWAY AGAIN!

WAKE UP,
FOR GOD'S
SAKE!!!

SHUT
UP, DAN.



YOU WANT THE TRUTH?
I'M PARALYZED WITH FEAR
OF FINDING THE KID WHO
SHARES MY POWER.
A POWER I NO LONGER
WANT.



AND
I'M SCARED
FOR HIM. FOR
HIS LIFE.



SO
LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT.

MAYBE
LATER. JUST
NOT NOW.



PFF!
THIS'LL BE
FUN

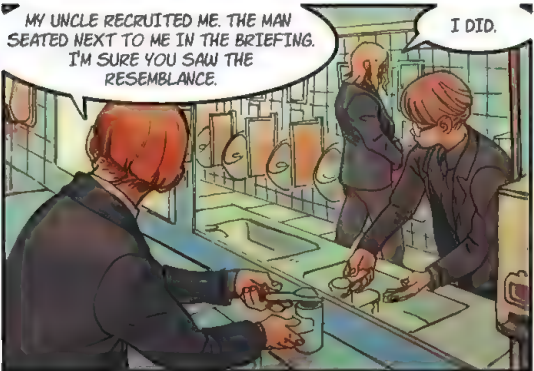


FRANK,
IS IT?



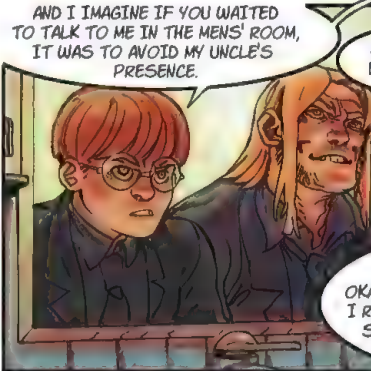
ER,
YEAH.

I WAS MEANING TO CONGRATULATE
YOU FOR YOUR ACCOMPLISHED WORK.
I DONNO HOW YOU GOT INTO THE
FBI SO YOUNG, BUT BRAVO.
GOOD JOB.



MY UNCLE RECRUITED ME. THE MAN
SEATED NEXT TO ME IN THE BRIEFING.
I'M SURE YOU SAW THE
RESEMBLANCE.

I DID.



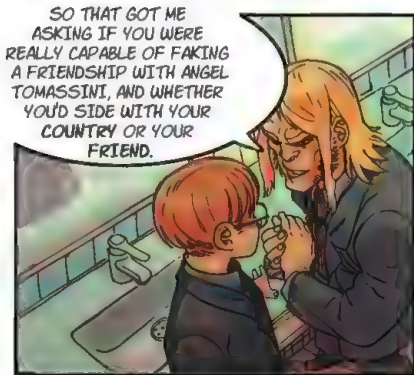
AND I IMAGINE IF YOU WAITED
TO TALK TO ME IN THE MENS' ROOM,
IT WAS TO AVOID MY UNCLE'S
PRESENCE.

EXCELLENT
DEDUCTION.

SO SPIT IT OUT.
NO NEED TO BUTTER ME UP
WITH TRANSPARENT
PRAISE.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

YOU'RE A HARD
LITTLE MAN, AREN'T YOU?
OKAY, LET'S LOOK AT HOW YOU GOT HERE.
I READ YOUR FILE. YOUR UNCLE TRIED TO
SEAL IT AWAY, BUT I'VE GOT MY TRICKS.
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.



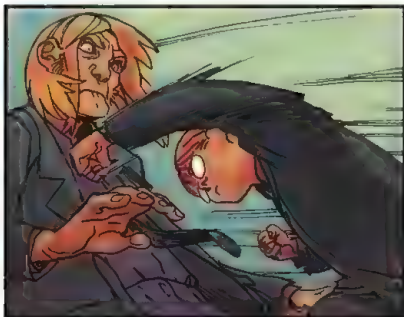
SO THAT GOT ME
ASKING IF YOU WERE
REALLY CAPABLE OF FAKING
A FRIENDSHIP WITH ANGEL
TOMASSINI, AND WHETHER
YOU'D SIDE WITH YOUR
COUNTRY OR YOUR
FRIEND.



YEAH, YOUR SILENCE
SPEAKS VOLUMES.



WAIT,
I HAVE A
QUESTION.



WHY WOULD A SUPER-AGENT
LIKE YOU SHOW EVERYONE
HIS BIGGEST WEAKNESS?



DOES THAT
TALON REALLY MAKE YOU
A RELIABLE ASSET?



AND SINCE I
MADE YOU SUFFER,
DOES THAT MAKE ME
THE DRAGON
DIZHI?



THE TOMASSINI
COMPOUND

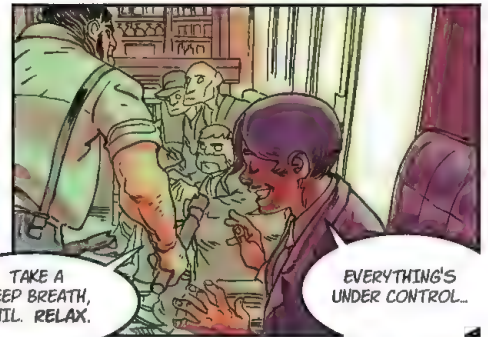
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE??



FIRST, ANGE DOES A
RUNNER, THEN DAN MANCINI
TAKES OFF... AND NOW THE
SOKUMOS ARE BREAKING
THE TRUCE??

WHAT
ARE YOU IDIOTS
DOING??

TAKE A
DEEP BREATH,
PHIL. RELAX.



EVERYTHING'S
UNDER CONTROL...



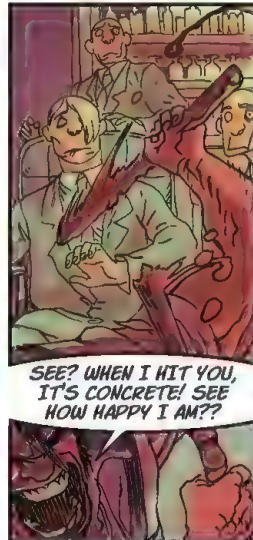
YOU CALL
THIS FIASCO "UNDER
CONTROL"?

HOW MANY
DAYS HAVE YOU
BEEN UNABLE TO
FIND MY SON?



I-IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF TIME...
WE'RE EXPLORING
SOME SOLID
LEADS --

I DON'T WANT
LEADS! I WANT
CONCRETE!

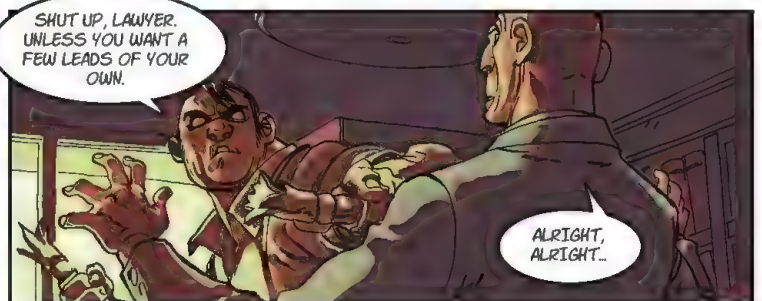


SEE? WHEN I HIT YOU,
IT'S CONCRETE! SEE
HOW HAPPY I AM??



OR SHOULD I
EXPLORE MORE
LEADS?

BOSS...
I THINK
HE'S DONE



SHUT UP, LAWYER.
UNLESS YOU WANT A
FEW LEADS OF YOUR
OWN.

ALRIGHT,
ALRIGHT...



SILVIO,
GET ME
SOME
ICE.



AND I WANT TWO
VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN UP MY
EX-HEAD OF SECURITY.



OKAY.
LAWYER, YOU'RE GONNA SET UP A
MEETING WITH OLD SOKUMO. JERRY,
TAKE AS MANY MEN AS YOU NEED AND NAB
THE OLD GUY'S LITTLE GIRL, FU-YU OR
WHATEVER, THE BALLERINA. SHE'S
HIS WEAKNESS...

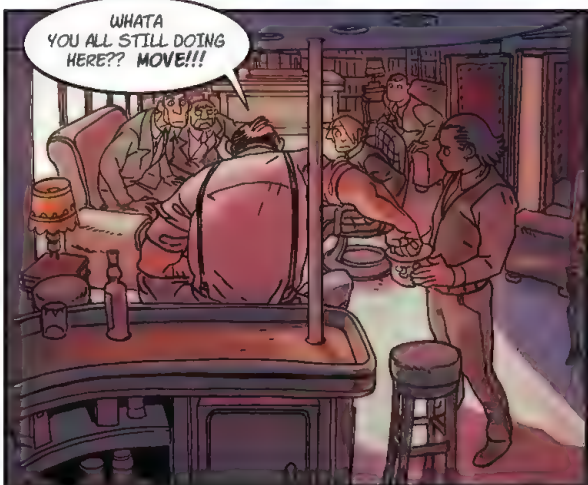


SILVIO, GET IN HERE. YOU'RE
RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING YOUR
BROTHER. TORTURE THAT LITTLE PRICK
FRANK IF YOU GOTTA. HE'S GOTTA
KNOW SOMETHING.

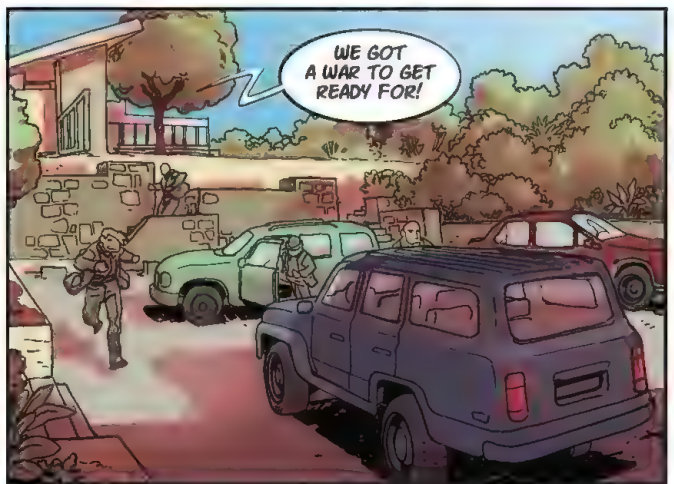


WHAT?

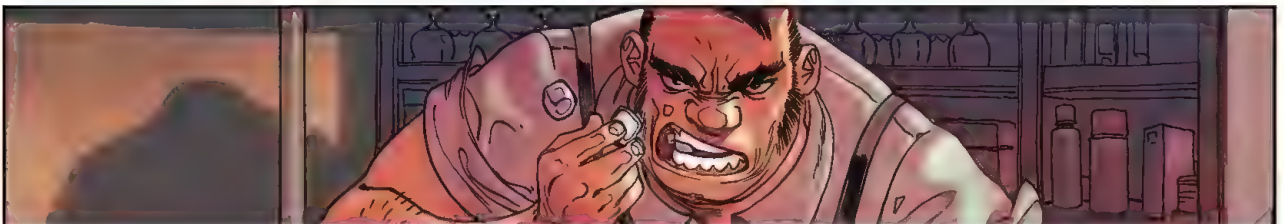
4-YOUR ICE.

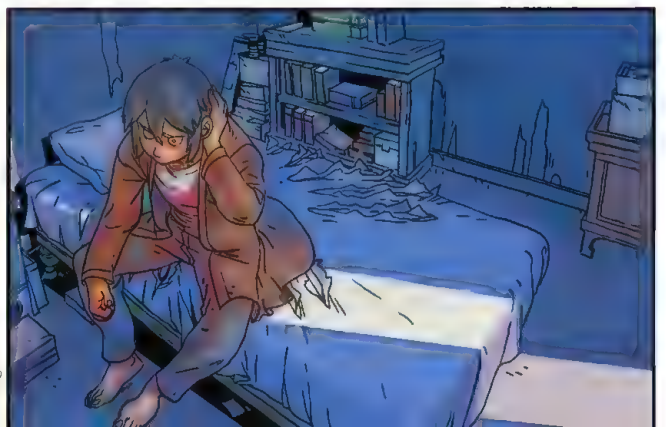
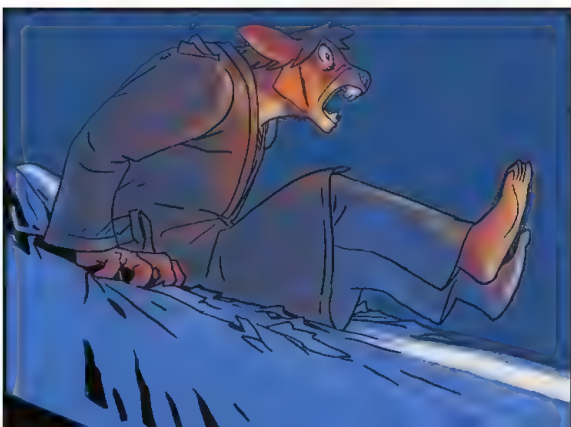
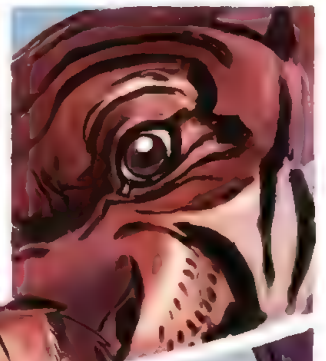
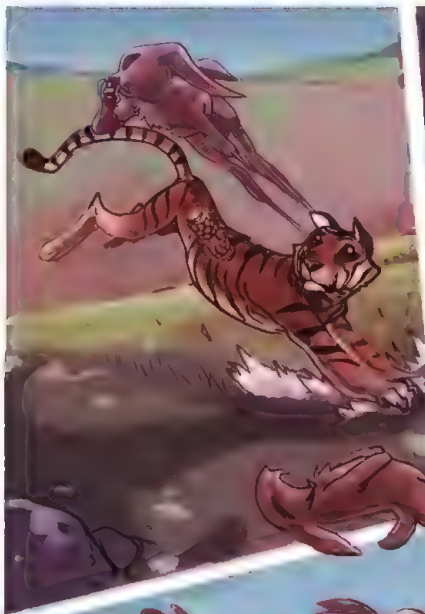


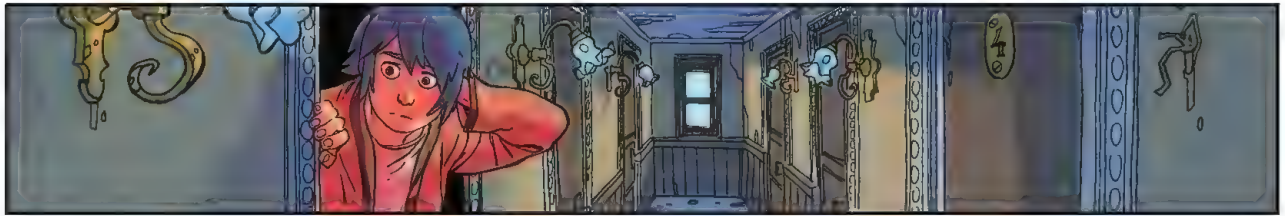
WHATA
YOU ALL STILL DOING
HERE??? MOVE!!!



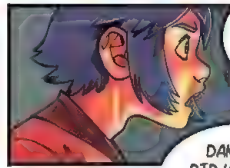
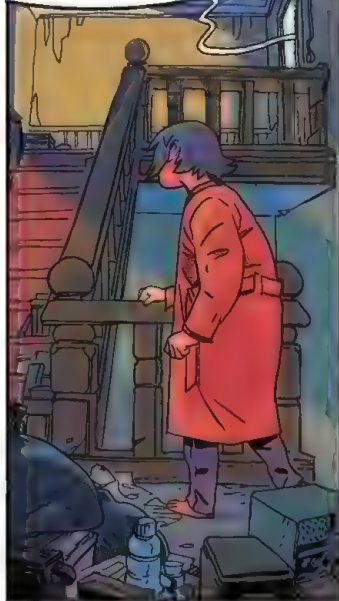
WE GOT
A WAR TO GET
READY FOR!







BOSS, THE SOKUMO CLAN
ACCEPTED THE MEETING.
IT SMELLS LIKE A TRAP.



OF COURSE IT
DOES. THAT'S WHY
I NEED FUYU AS
LEVERAGE...

DAN, WH...
DID YOU PUT
CAMERAS IN OUR
HOUSE?



Y'YEAH

NOT BAD, EH?
THIS WAY WE'RE
ONE STEP AHEAD OF
YOUR DAD'S PLANS.

DO THEY KNOW ABOUT
THE SOKUMO DIZHI?
THE ROOSTER?



I DON'T
THINK
SO, NO.



WE GOTTA
HELP THEM.

WH... WHA?
I THOUGHT YOU
WANTED TO RUIN
YOUR DAD'S
BUSINESS?

YEAH, BUT NOT GET
HIM KILLED! HE'S
STILL MY DAD!



KID, YOU CAN'T FIGHT
THE ROOSTER! I'M NOT
LETTING YOU GO
THERE!

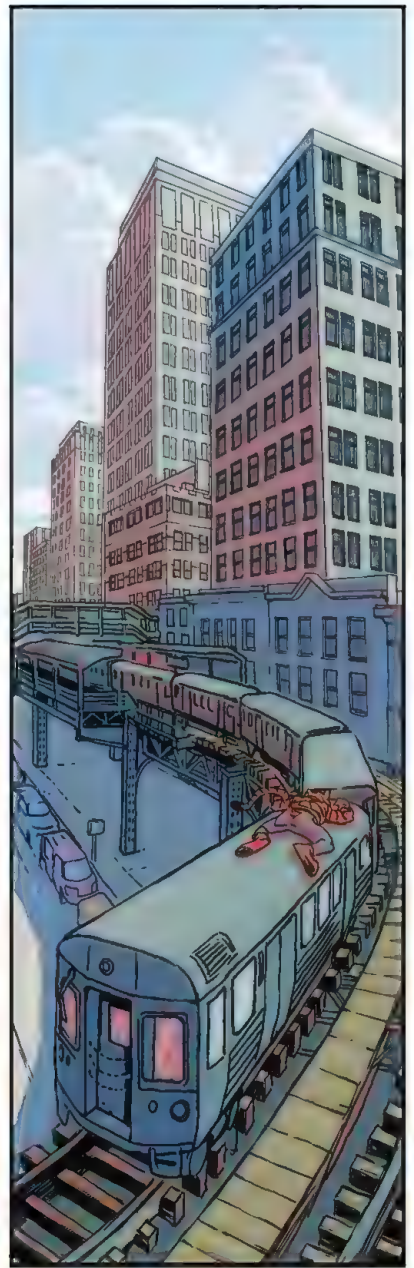
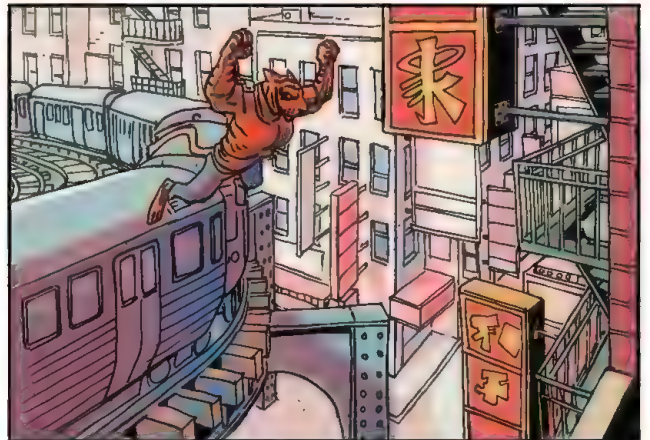
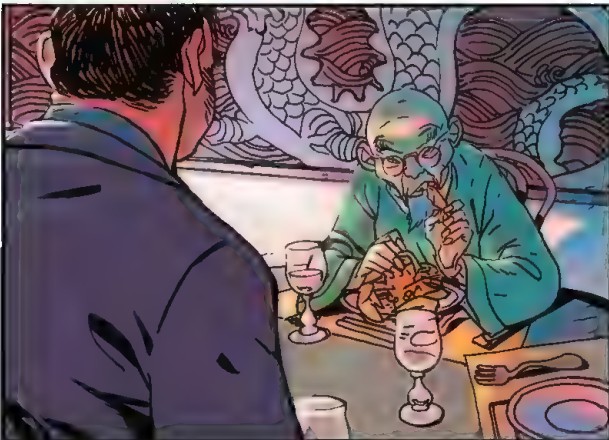
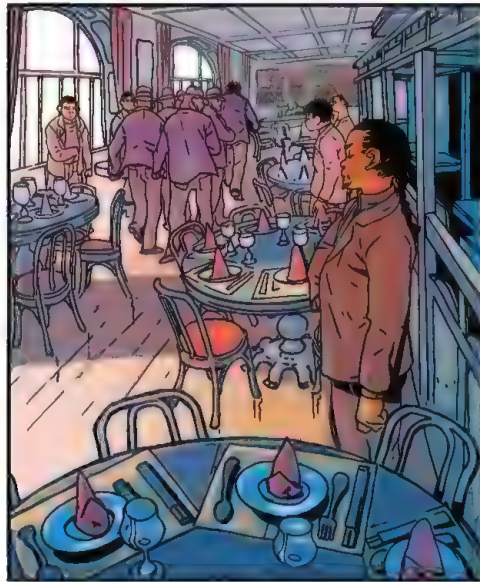
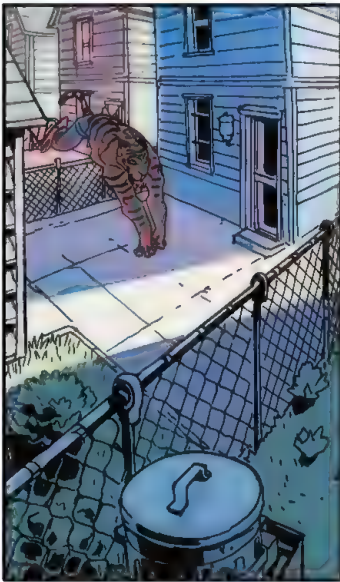
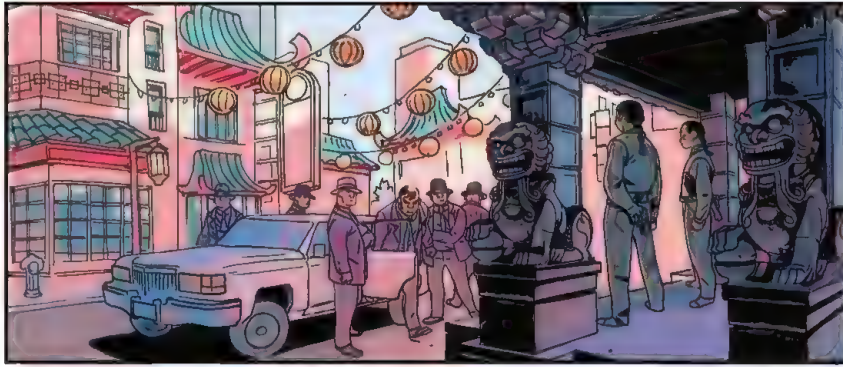
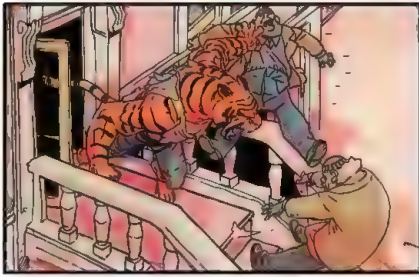
NO ONE'S GONNA
STOP ME FROM
SAVING MY DAD,
NOT EVEN
YOU!

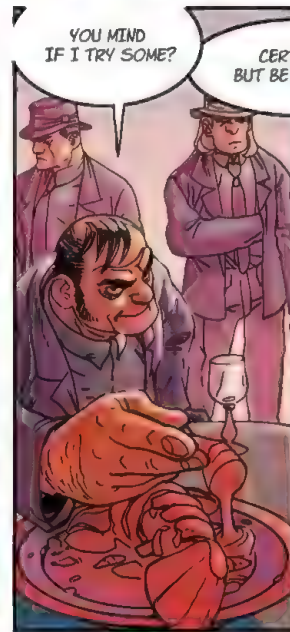
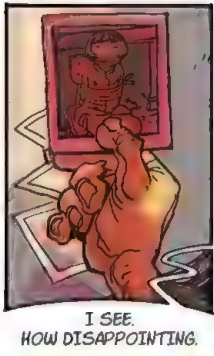
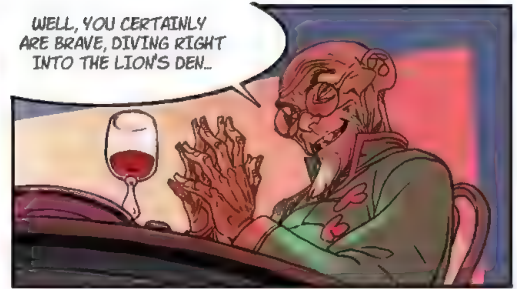


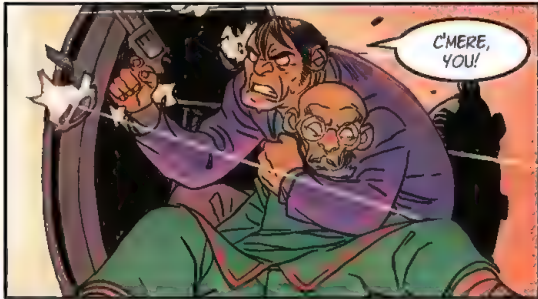
LET'S
TALK ABOUT
THIS --



I'M
GOING.



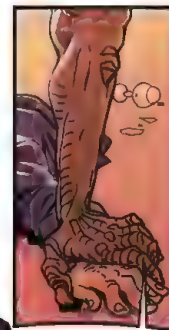
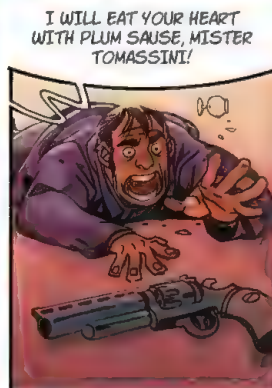




I'D WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF MORE THAN ME...

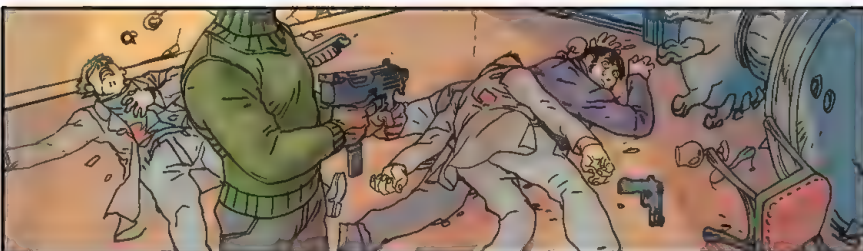
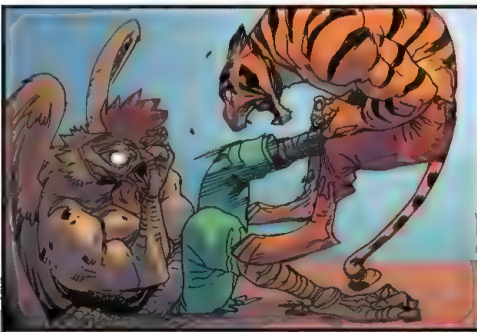
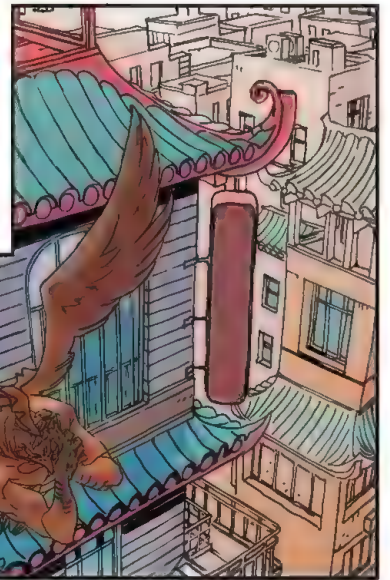
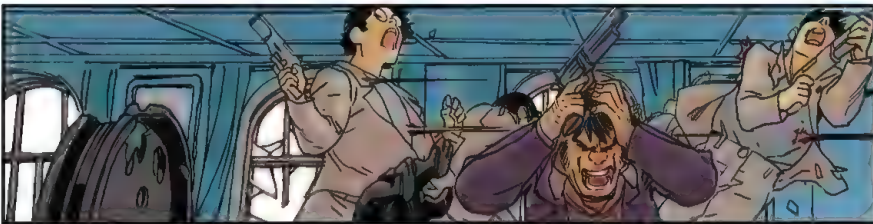
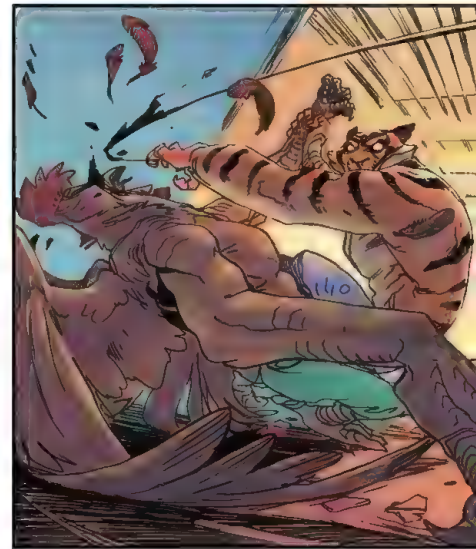
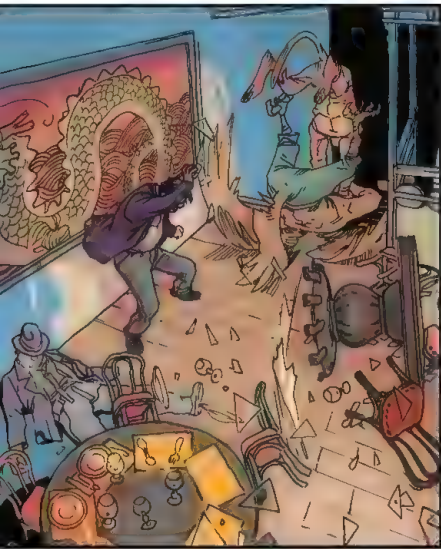
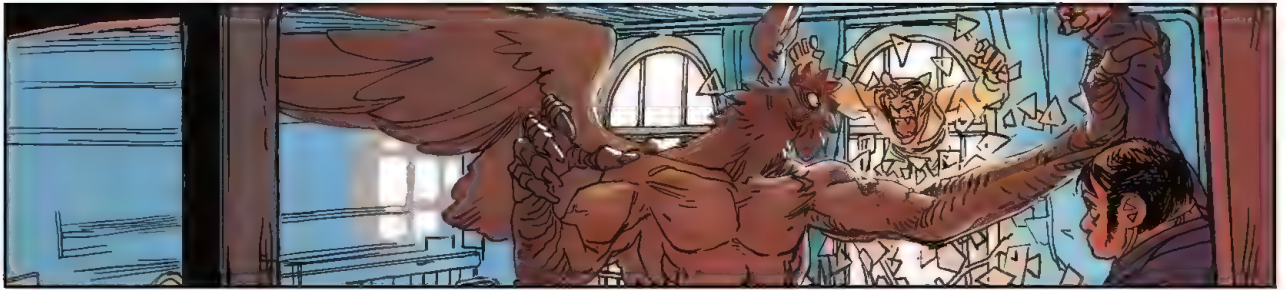


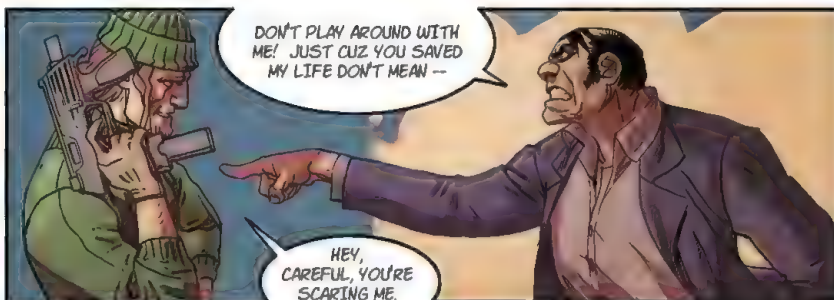
A MATTER OF OPINION.

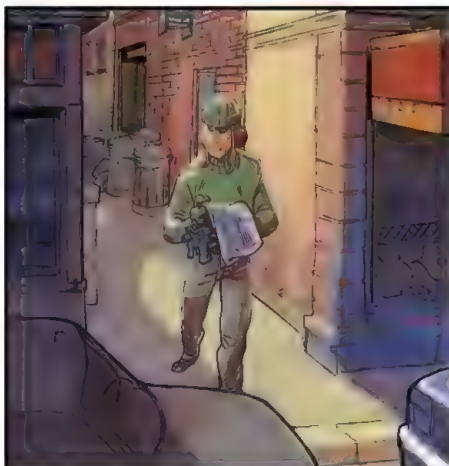
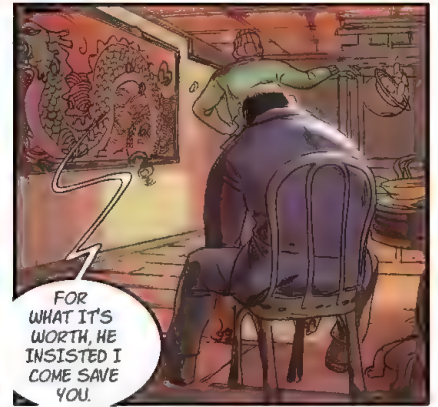


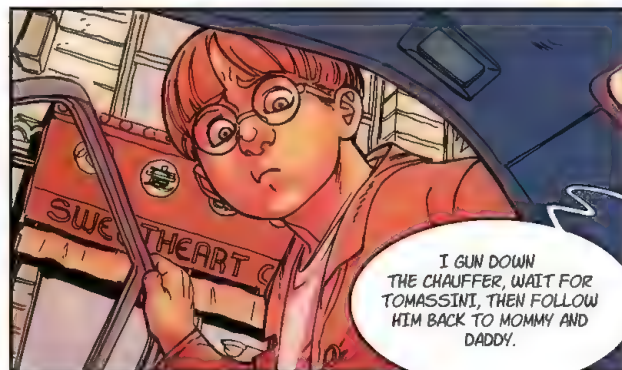
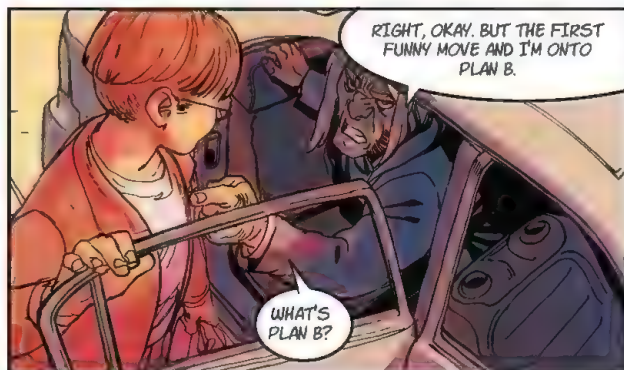
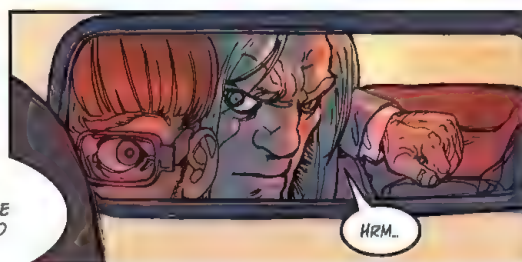
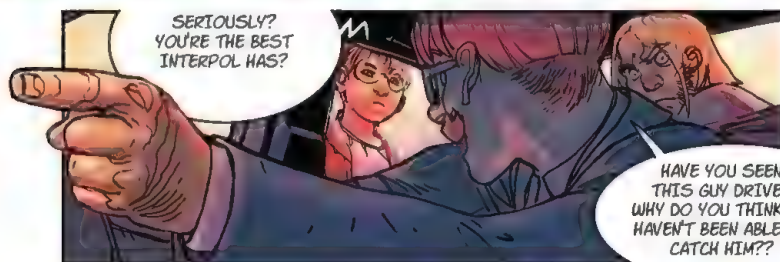
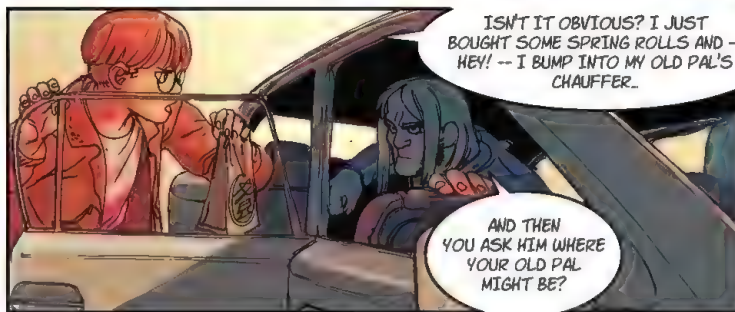
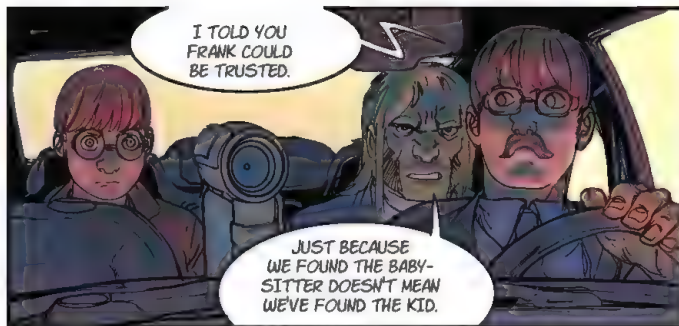
BUT FIRST, I WILL START WITH YOUR EYES...

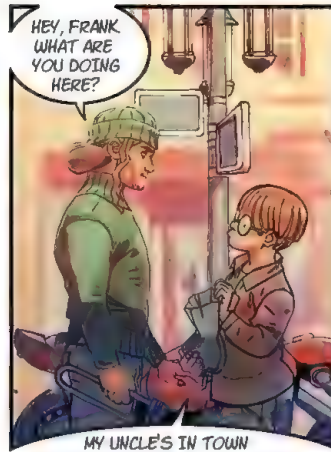




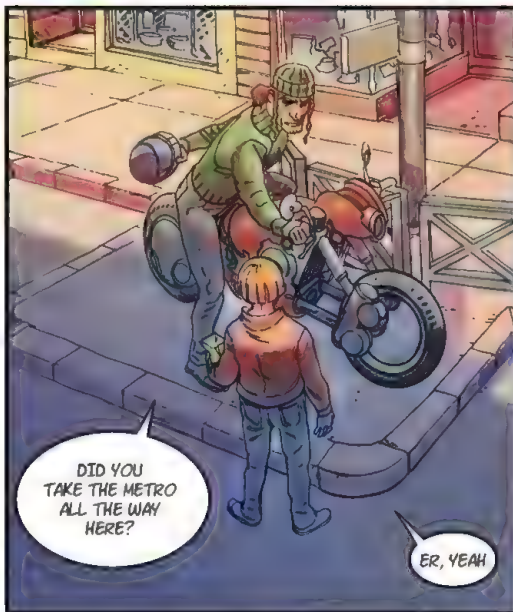
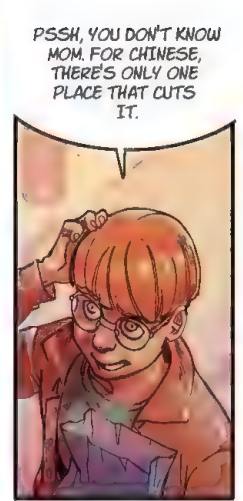
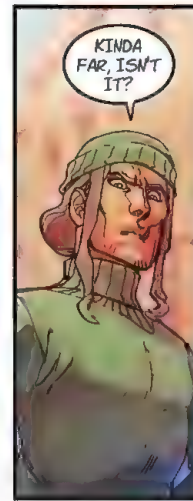


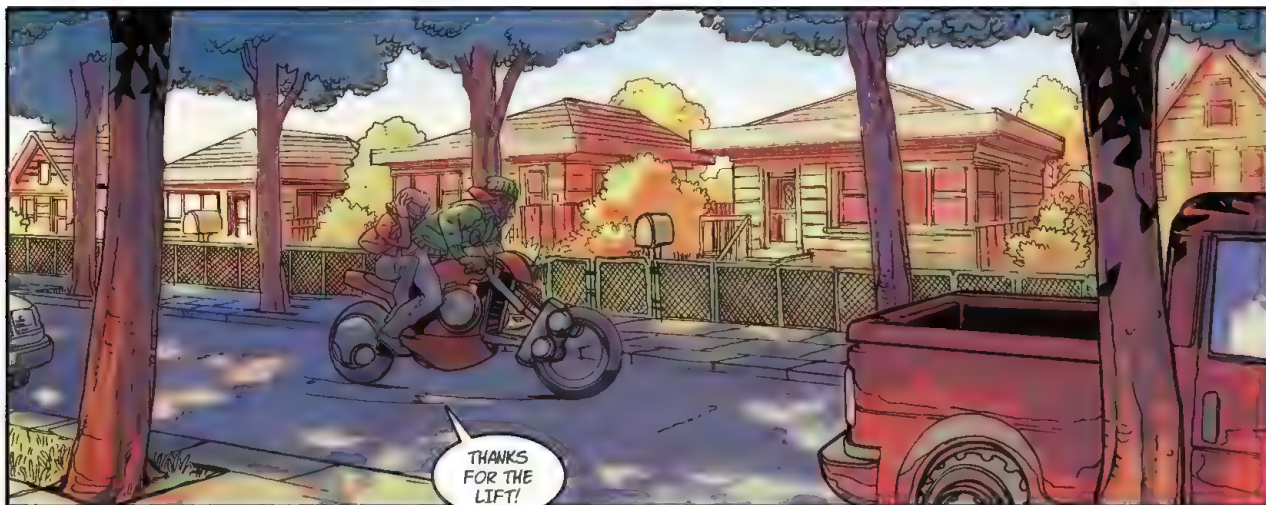




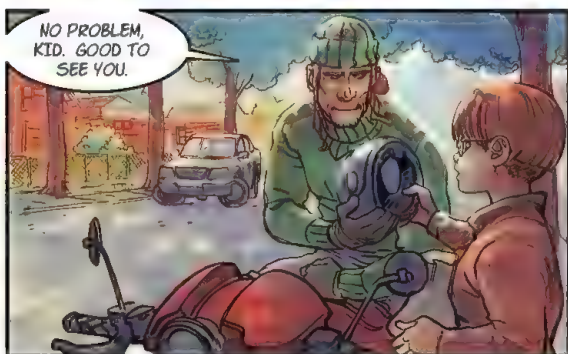


MY UNCLE'S IN TOWN
SO MOM SENT ME TO GRAB SOME
CHINESE FOR DINNER...





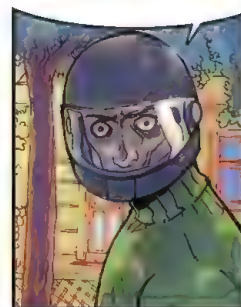
THANKS
FOR THE
LIFT!



NO PROBLEM,
KID. GOOD TO
SEE YOU.



SAY, I
DOUBT YOU'D KNOW,
BUT... DO YOU KNOW
IF ANGE IS ALL
RIGHT?



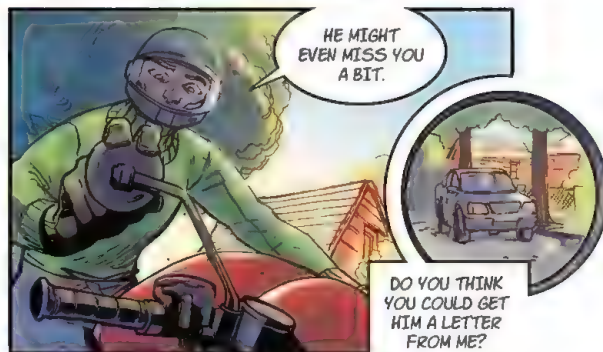
HOW WOULD I KNOW?



WELL... ANGE TOLD ME THERE WAS TROUBLE
BREWING BETWEEN HIM AND HIS DAD. SO I THOUGHT
IF HE EVER RAN AWAY, YOU MIGHT KNOW...

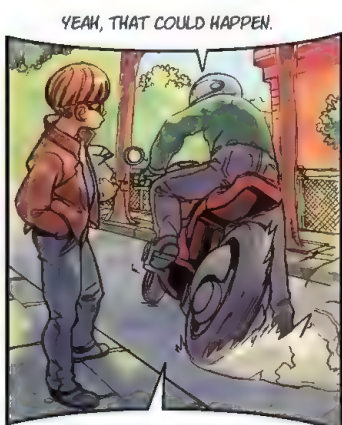
HEH,
YEAH, HE'S
FINE.

COOL!



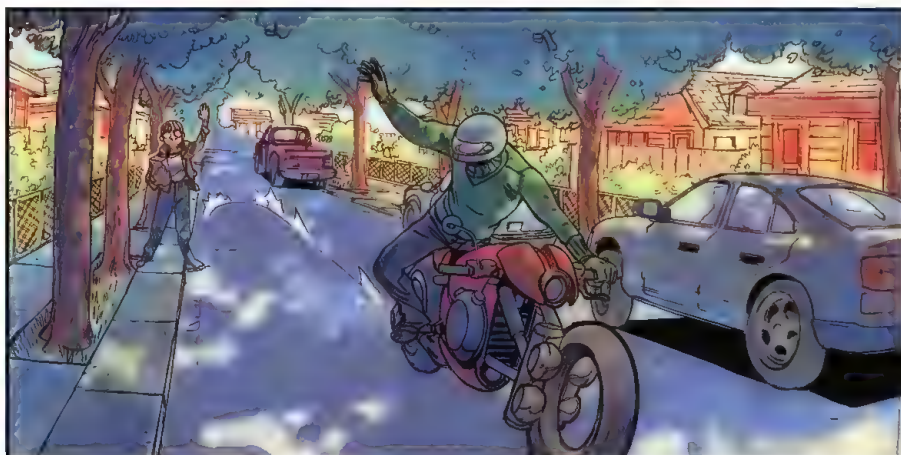
HE MIGHT
EVEN MISS YOU
A BIT.

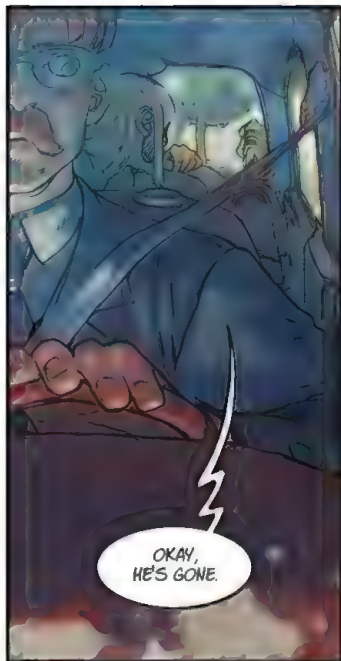
DO YOU THINK
YOU COULD GET
HIM A LETTER
FROM ME?



YEAH, THAT COULD HAPPEN.

WRITE YOUR LETTER AND
BRING IT BY TOMORROW AFTER CLASS.





OKAY,
HE'S GONE.



THAT CAR
REALLY IS
SUSPICIOUSLY
DISCREET.

HE DID UNTIL
HE SPOTTED YOU.

ALL GOOD,
FRANK? DID HE
BUY YOUR
STORY?



SO WE
BLEW IT?



MAYBE NOT.
BUT WE'LL HAVE TO ME A LOT MORE
CAREFUL MOVING FORWARD.



ALRIGHT,
SEE YA, AGENT
JONES.

HOLD IT,
KID. WE GOTTA
DEBRIEF BEFORE
YOU GO BACK TO
PLAYING WITH
YOUR TOYS.



DEBRIEF YOURSELF,
OSWALD. I'VE GOT
WORK TO DO.

I'VE GOTTA
CONVINCE LISA TO
PUT A NOTE IN MY
LETTER TO ANGE BY
TOMORROW.

GET BACK HERE,
YOU LITTLE TURD! WE'VE
GOT VERY LITTLE TIME
TO WASTE!

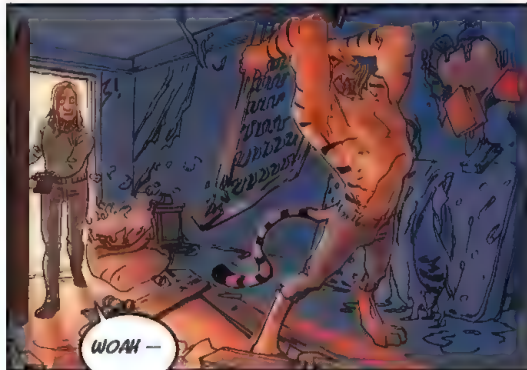
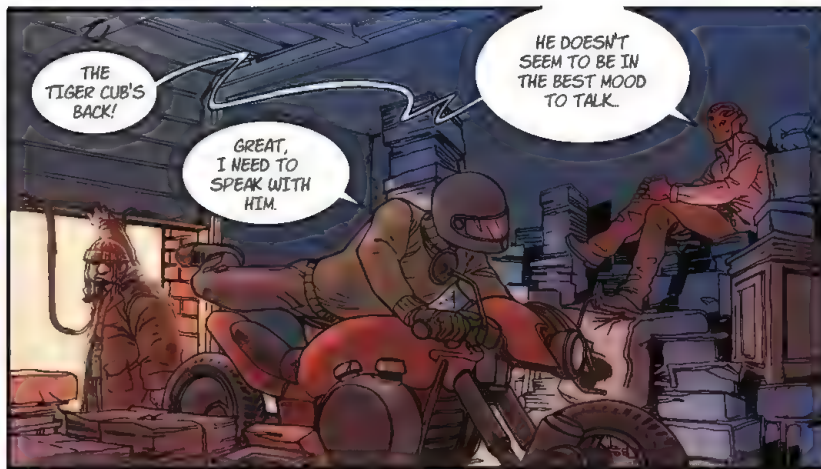


IF YOU WANT MORE
TIME, YOU SHOULD
REVIEW ONE DETAIL
YOU SEEM TO HAVE
MISSED.

HOW ARE
YOU GOING TO
NEUTRALIZE TWO GUYS
WHO CAN TURN INTO
WERE-TIGERS?



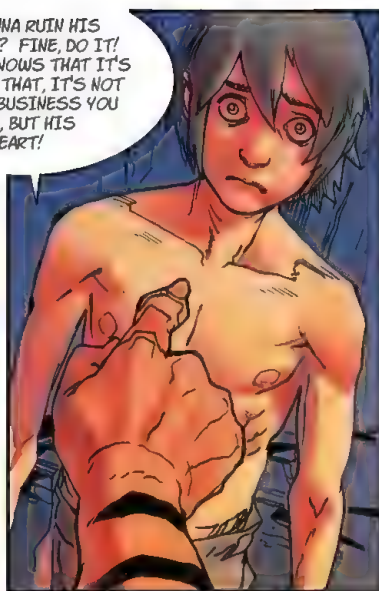
THAT, MY GOOD,
FRUSTRATING, LITTLE PUP,
IS SOMETHING I CAN ANSWER.
AND IF YOU WANNA KNOW HOW,
YOU'LL COME WITH ME.





YOU WANNA RUIN HIS BUSINESS? FINE, DO IT! BUT IF HE KNOWS THAT IT'S YOU BEHIND THAT, IT'S NOT ONLY HIS BUSINESS YOU BREAK, BUT HIS HEART!

I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU! SO BE NICE, GROW A FEW BRAIN CELLS, AND THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID TO YOUR DAD!



I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT!

OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD YOU JUMP TO SAVE HIM AS SOON AS A BAD GUY POPS UP??

I'M... SORRY.



GOOD.

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



THE ROOSTER ISN'T GONNA HOLD BACK. HE'S NOT USED TO FAILURE. HE'S GONNA WANNA FINISH THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

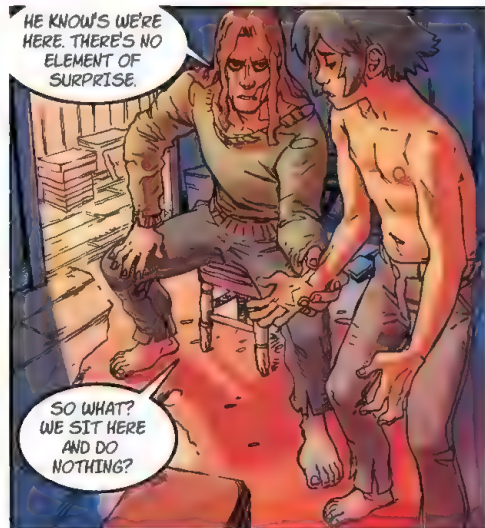
AND KNOWING YOUR DAD, I DEFINITELY GET THE IMPRESSION HE'S GETTING READY FOR WAR.



I. I GOTTA DO SOMETHING! HE'S GOT NO CHANCE AGAINST THE ROOSTER!

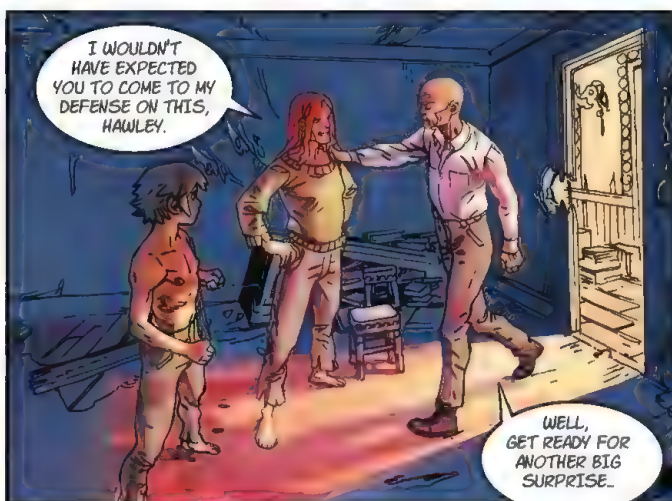
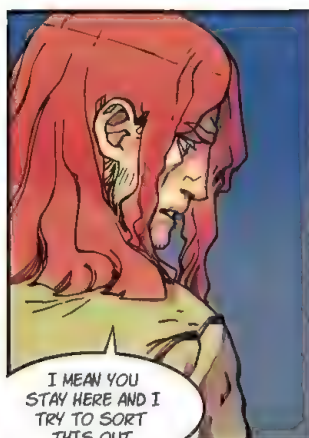
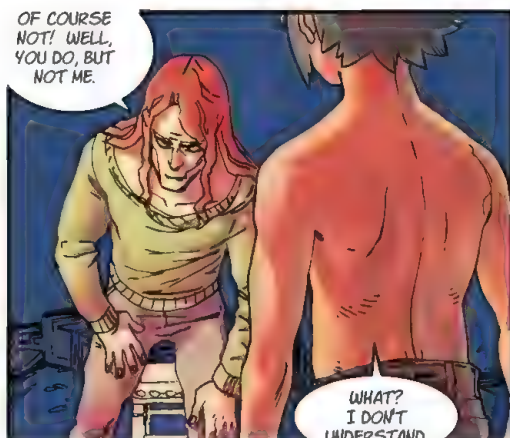


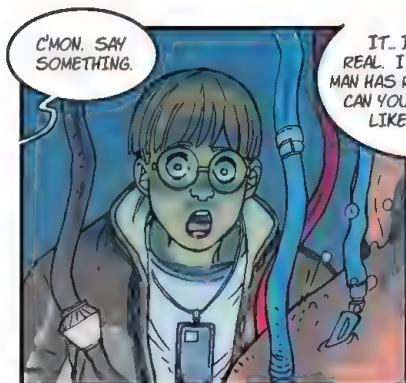
THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO!



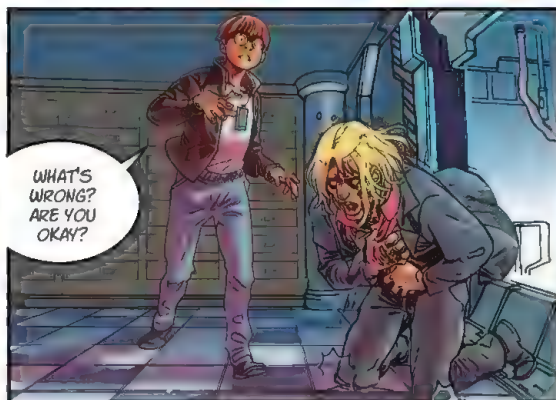
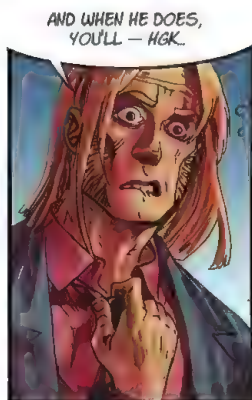
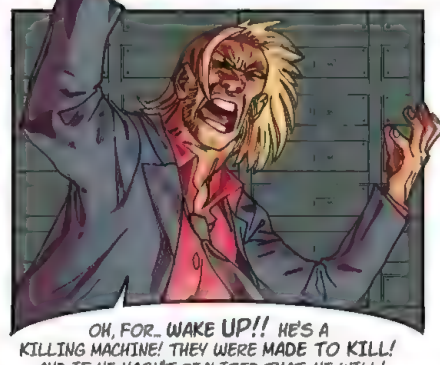
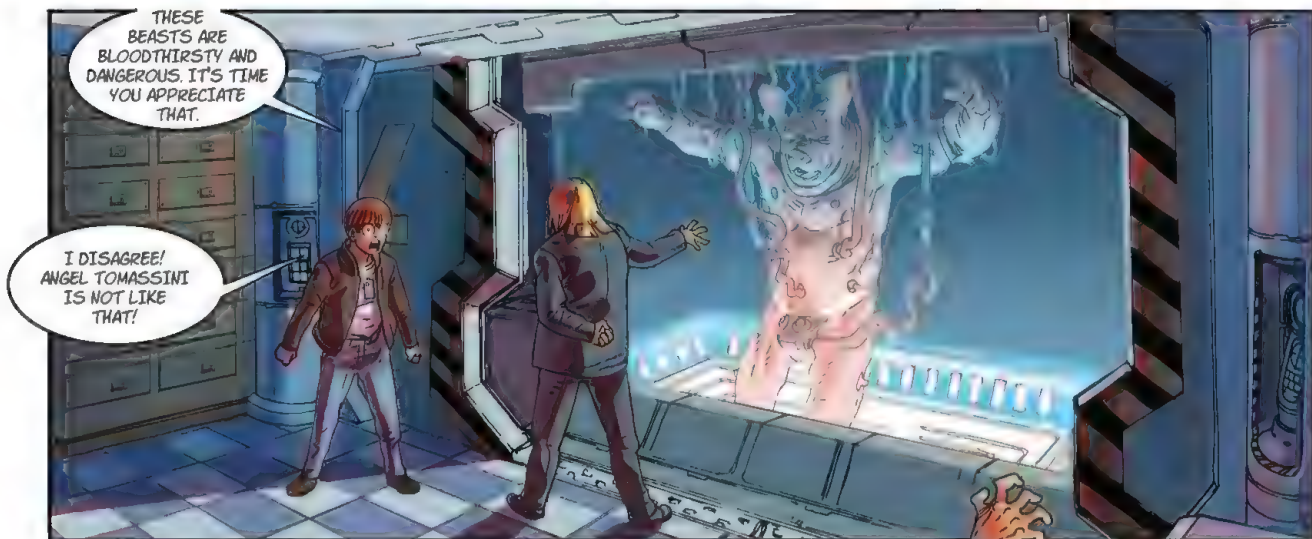
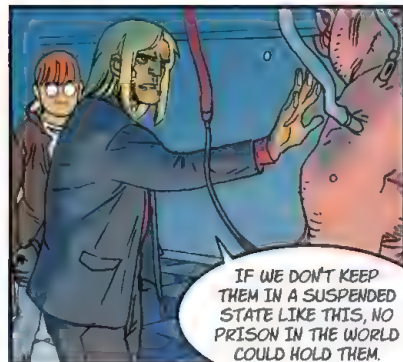
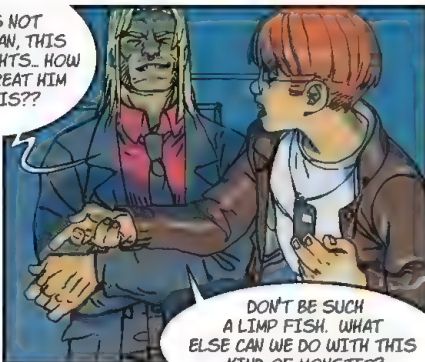
HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE. THERE'S NO ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

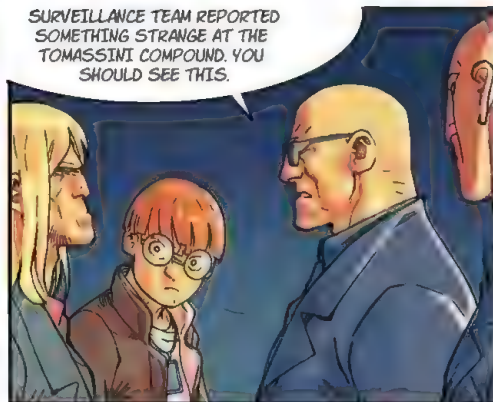
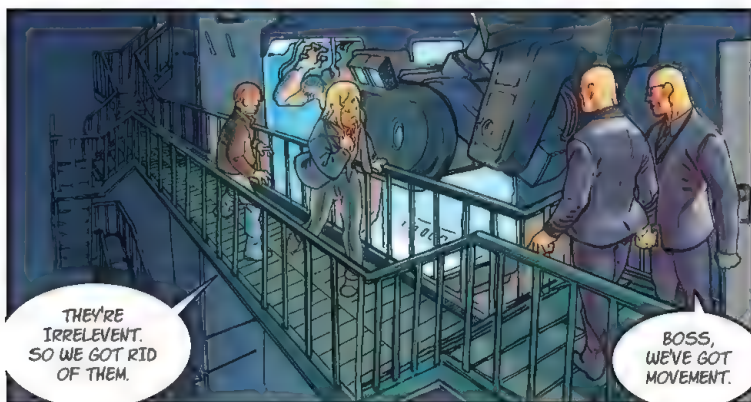
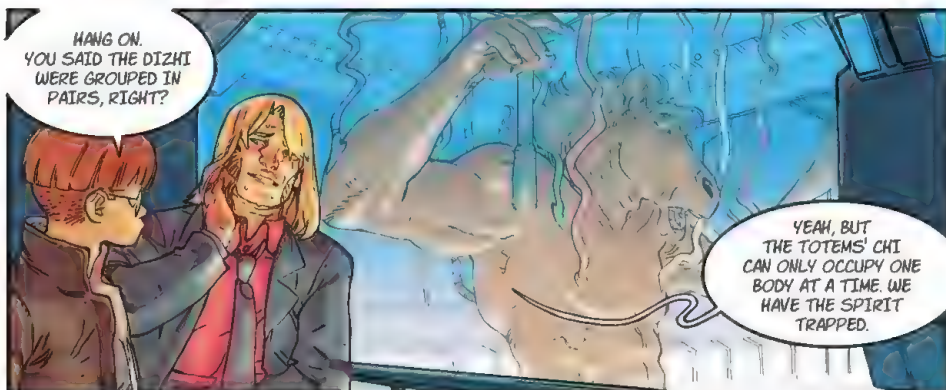
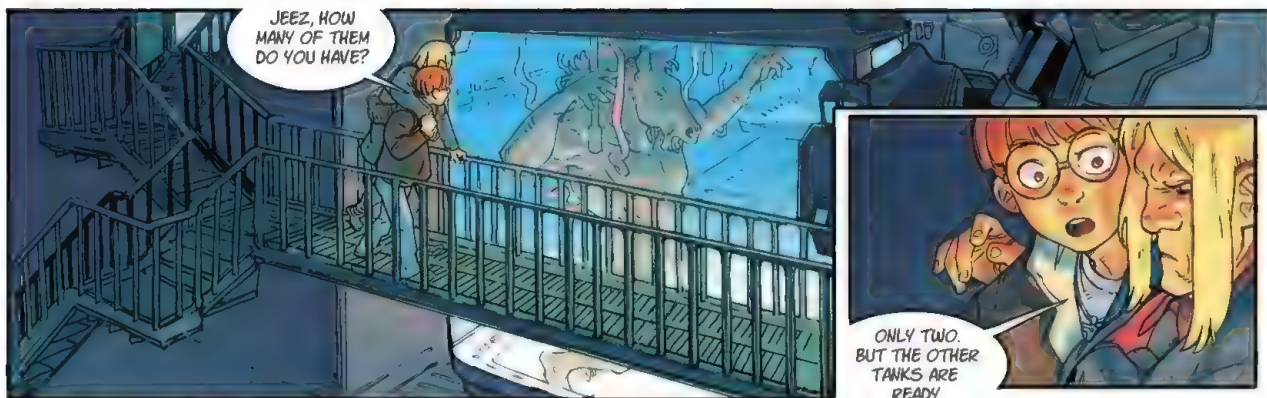
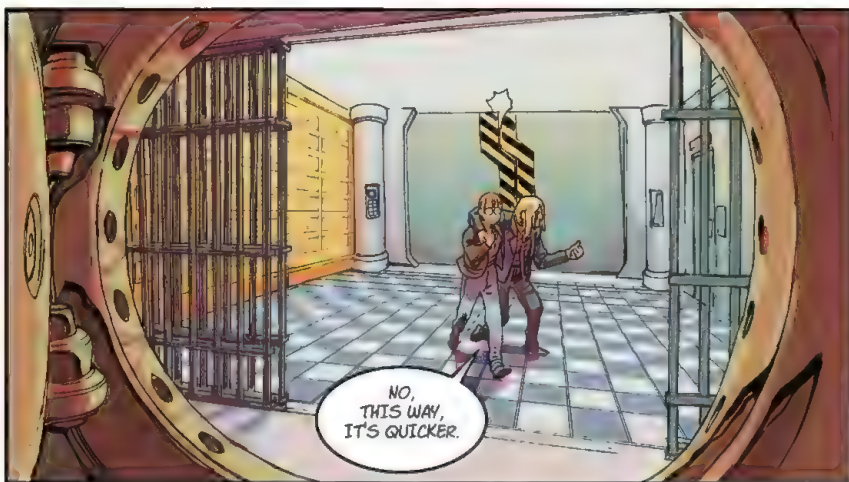
SO WHAT? WE SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING?





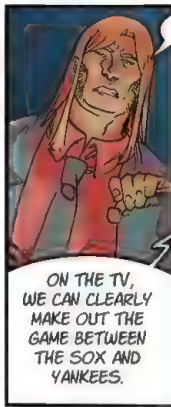
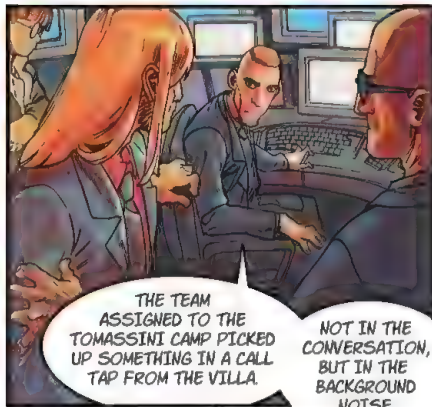
IT. IT'S NOT REAL. I MEAN, THIS MAN HAS RIGHTS... HOW CAN YOU TREAT HIM LIKE THIS??



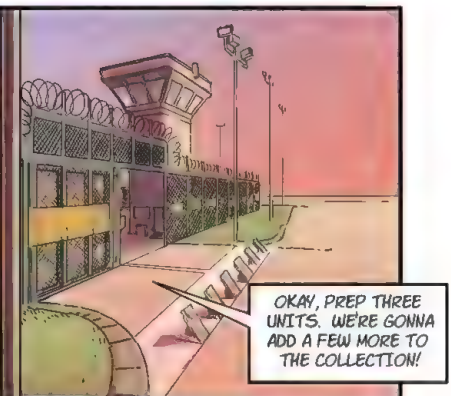
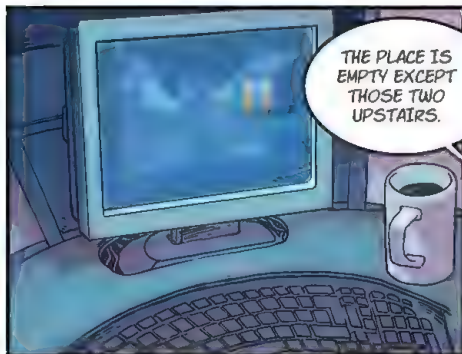
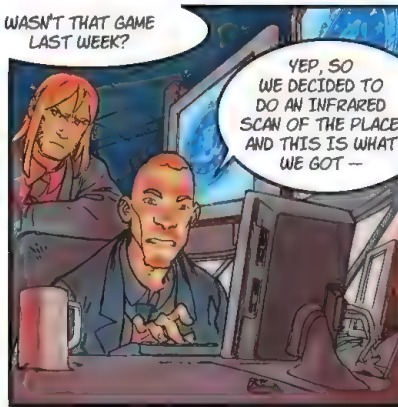


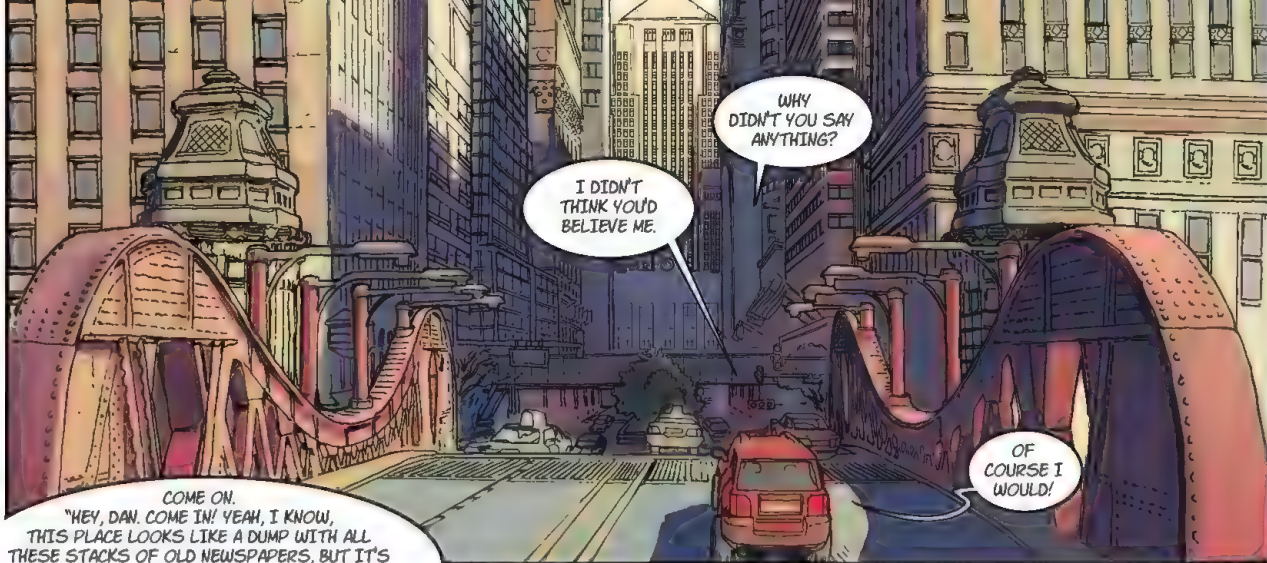
MINUTES LATER

SHOW ME.



WASN'T THAT GAME LAST WEEK?





I DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D
BELIEVE ME.

WHY
DIDN'T YOU SAY
ANYTHING?

OF
COURSE I
WOULD!

COME ON.
"HEY, DAN, COME IN! YEAH, I KNOW,
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE A DUMP WITH ALL
THESE STACKS OF OLD NEWSPAPERS, BUT IT'S
THE ONLY THING THAT FILTERS THE SIGNAL
BETWEEN ME AND THE TALON THAT'S STUCK
IN THE CHEST OF AN INTERPOL
COP"

REALLY?

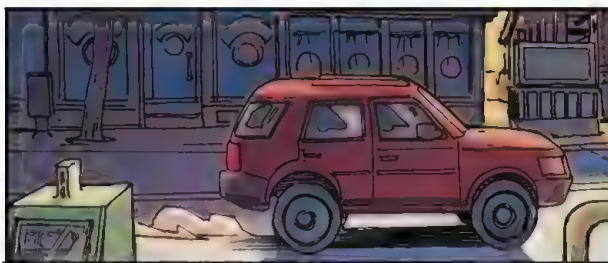


YEAH, OKAY, IT
DOES SOUND A BIT
PARANOID.

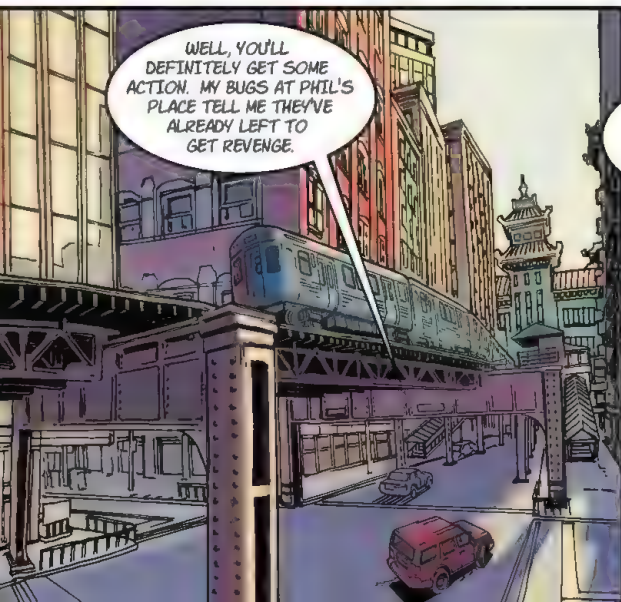
BUT IF IT'S
TRUE, THAT'S A
PRETTY GOOD REASON
NOT TO HELP.



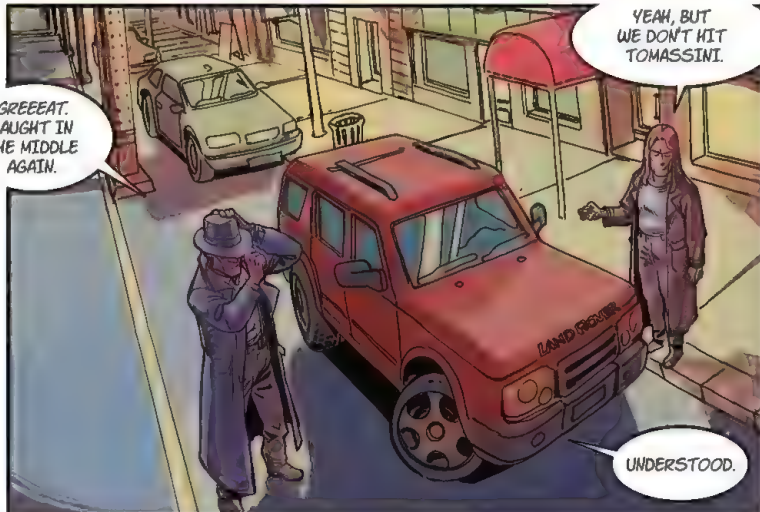
YEAH, MAYBE.
BUT I GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE GOTTEN
RESTLESS KICKING MY HEELS. I NEEDED
SOME ACTION. I FELT LIKE A DRAGON-
SIZED CANARY INSIDE A
TINY CAGE.



WELL, YOU'LL
DEFINITELY GET SOME
ACTION. MY BUGS AT PHIL'S
PLACE TELL ME THEY'VE
ALREADY LEFT TO
GET REVENGE.



GREEEAT.
CAUGHT IN
THE MIDDLE
AGAIN.



YEAH, BUT
WE DON'T HIT
TOMASSINI.

UNDERSTOOD.



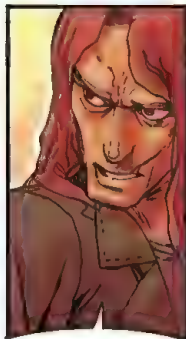
AND ANGE?

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

YOU DON'T THINK HE'LL COME LOOKING FOR YOU?

WITH THE NUMBER OF SLEEPING PILLS I PUT IN HIS SODA, I DON'T SEE THAT HAPPENING.

AND WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ROOSTER KILLS YOU? WITH ANGE ASLEEP, THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP THE ROOSTER FROM STEALING YOUR CHI!



I KNOW THE RULES AS WELL AS YOU DO. IT'S A RISK I CHOSE TO TAKE, AND A GOOD MOTIVATION FOR ME NOT TO DIE.



YOU'RE NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO LECTURE ME ON MORALS, YOU KNOW. YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED FOR YOUR PARTNER.



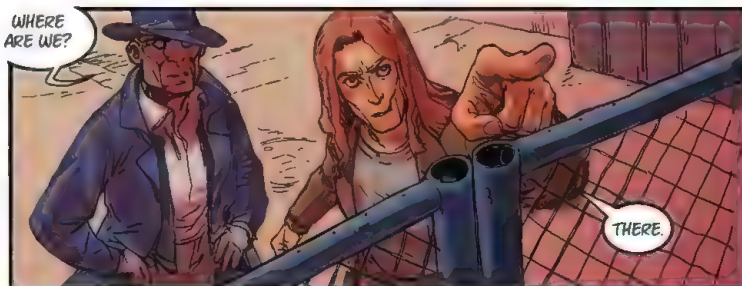
PARTNER? IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ANGE?

WE SHARE THE POWER EQUALLY. HE MAY STILL BE LEARNING, BUT HE'LL BE ON MY LEVEL SOON ENOUGH.

AND UNTIL THEN?

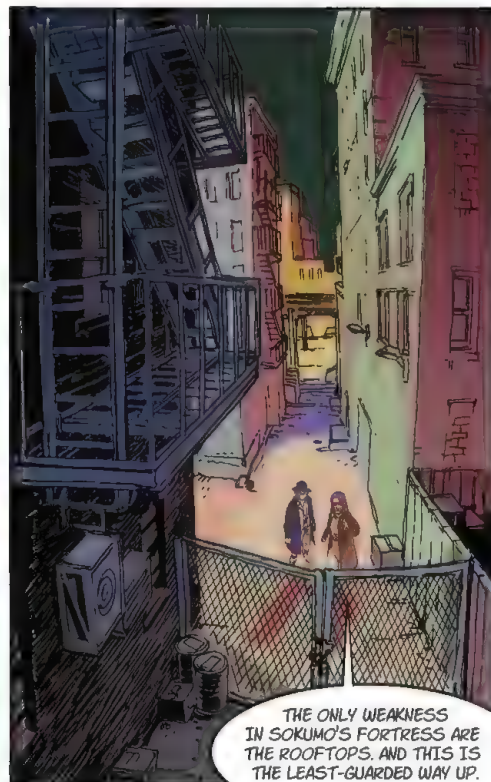


UNTIL THEN, YOU SHUT UP. WE'RE HERE. STAY QUIET.

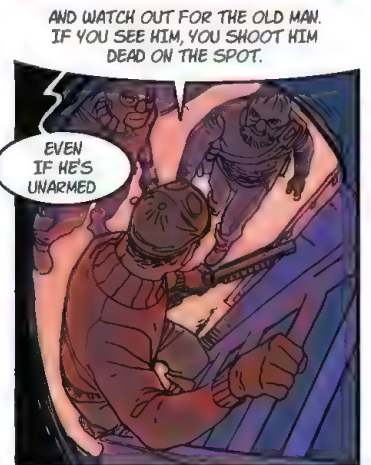
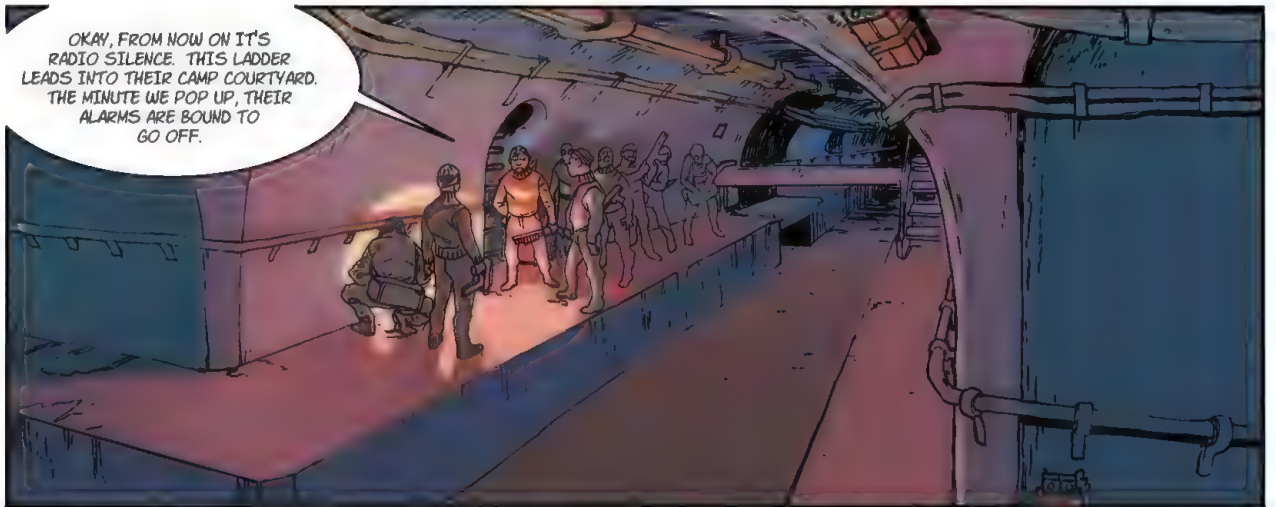
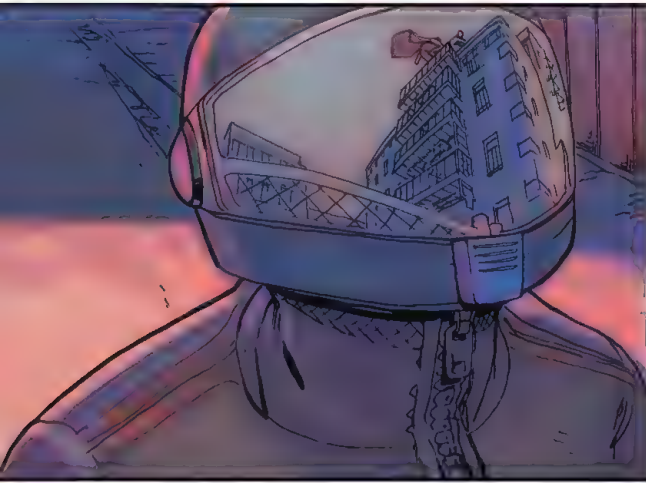
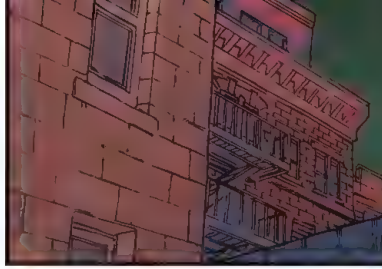


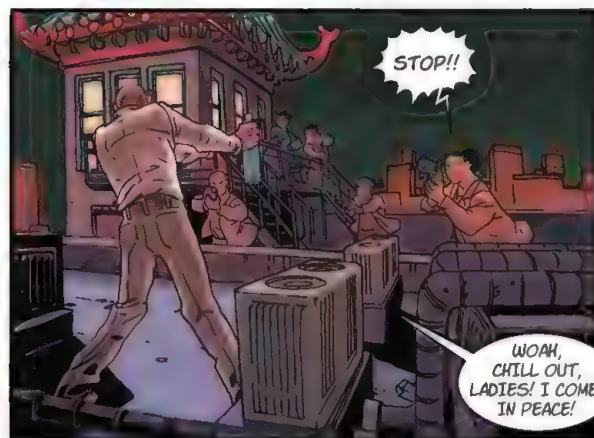
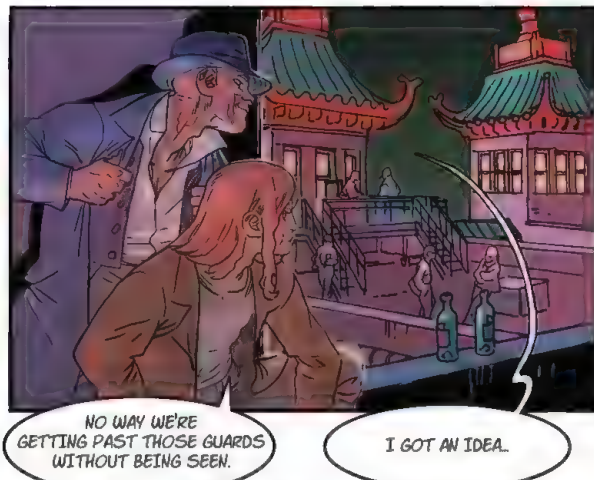
WHERE ARE WE?

THERE.

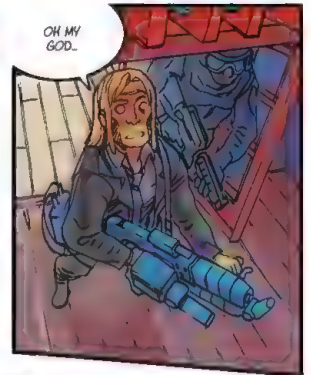
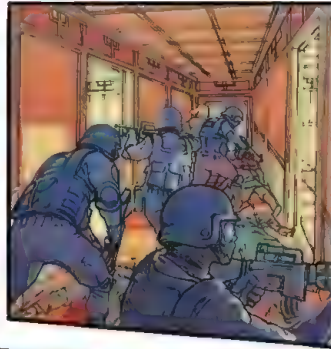
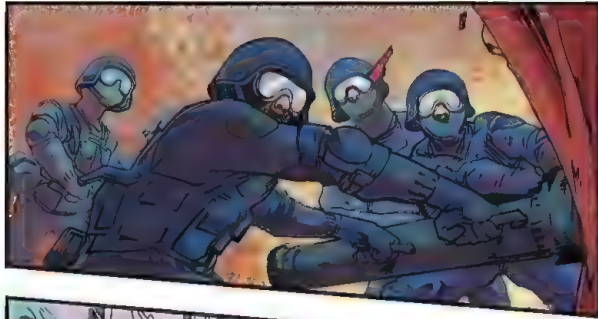


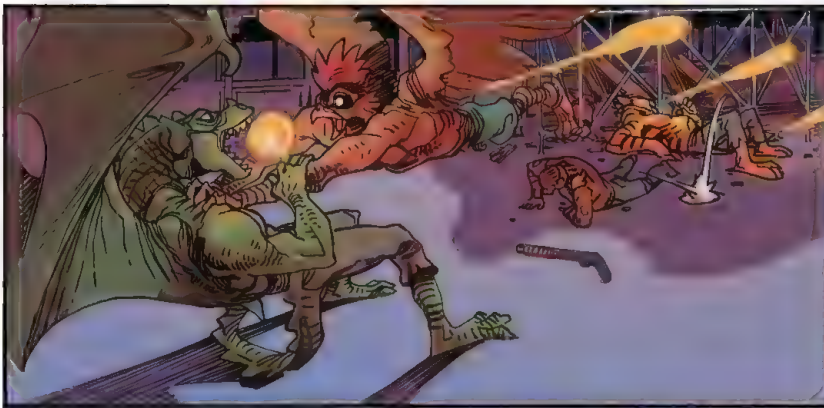
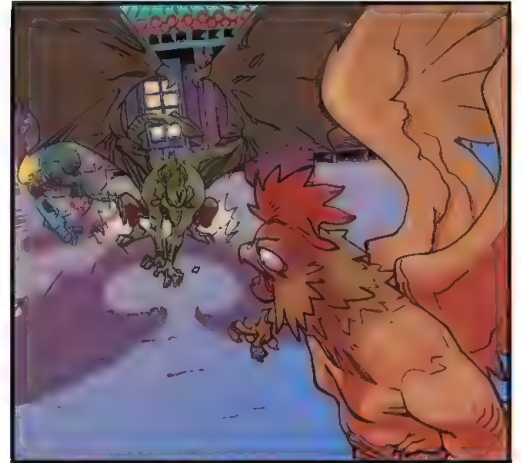
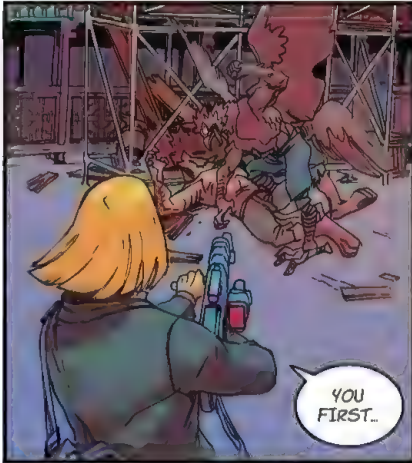
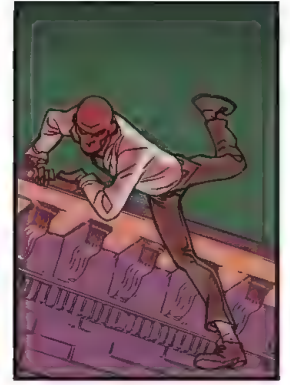
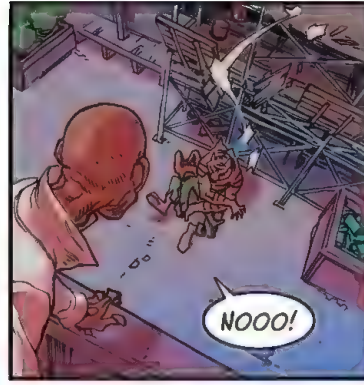
THE ONLY WEAKNESS IN SOKUMO'S FORTRESS ARE THE ROOFTOPS. AND THIS IS THE LEAST-GUARDED WAY UP.

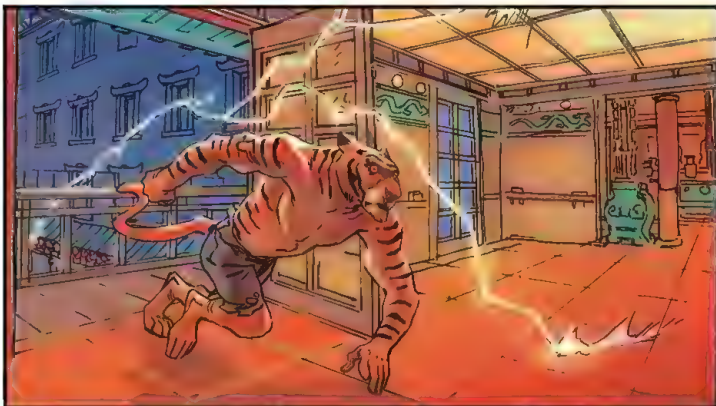
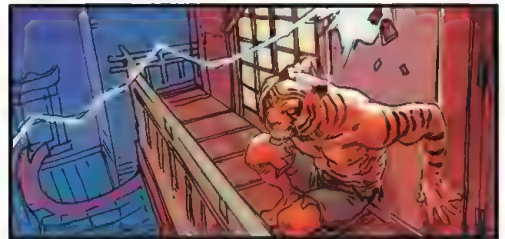
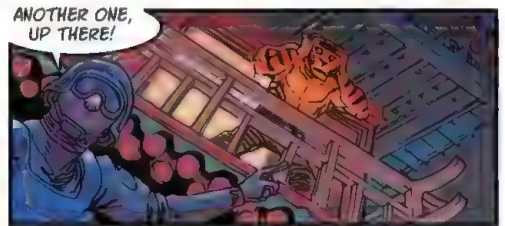
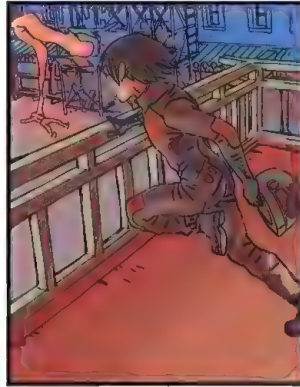
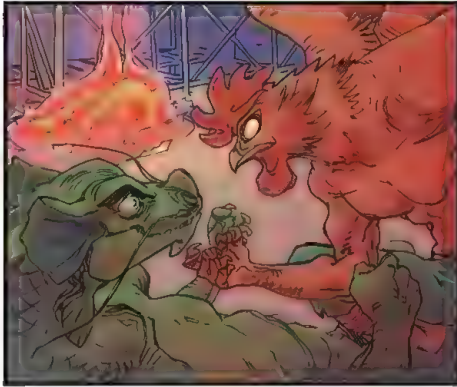
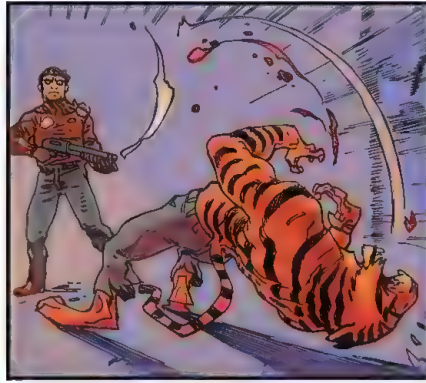


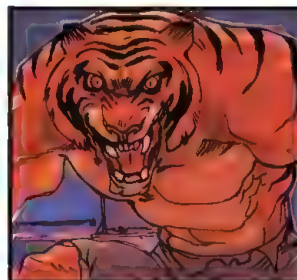


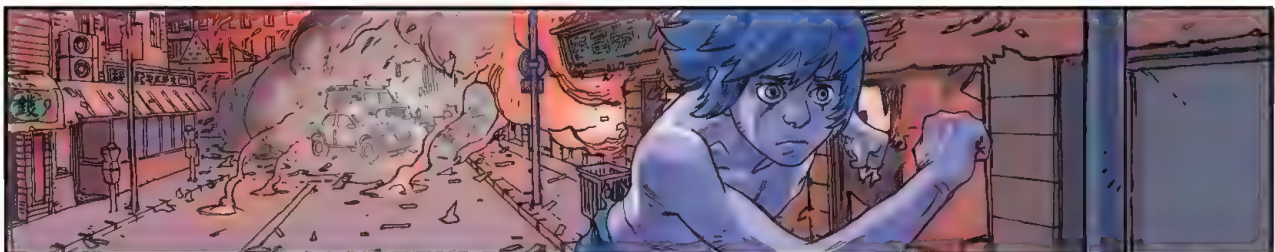
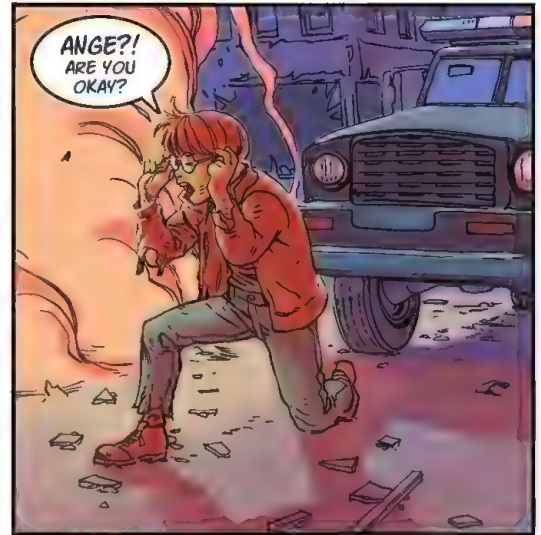
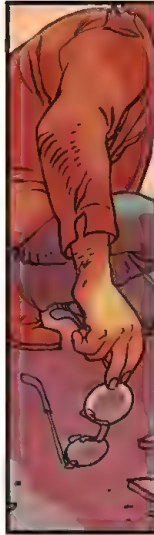
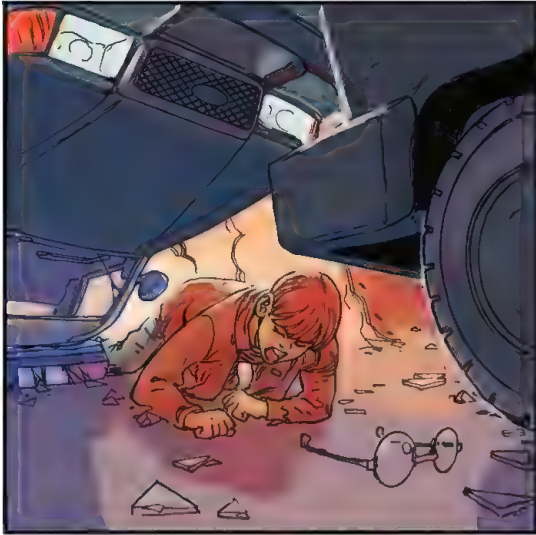






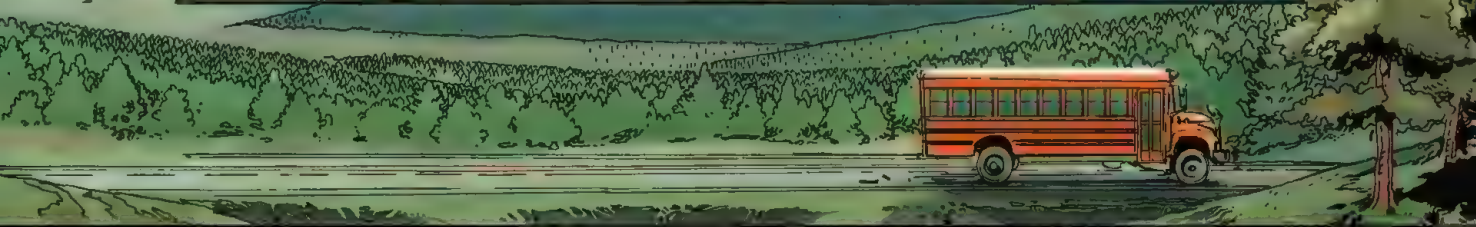








"ANGE,
I'M LEAVING THIS NOTE FOR
YOU IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS
TO ME. I KNOW YOU MUST BE UPSET
AND A LITTLE BIT LOST. YOU CAN
GO BACK TO YOUR DAD, OF COURSE.
HE WON'T TURN YOU AWAY.



THANKS.

YOU'RE
WELCOME.
HAVE A NICE
HOLIDAY!

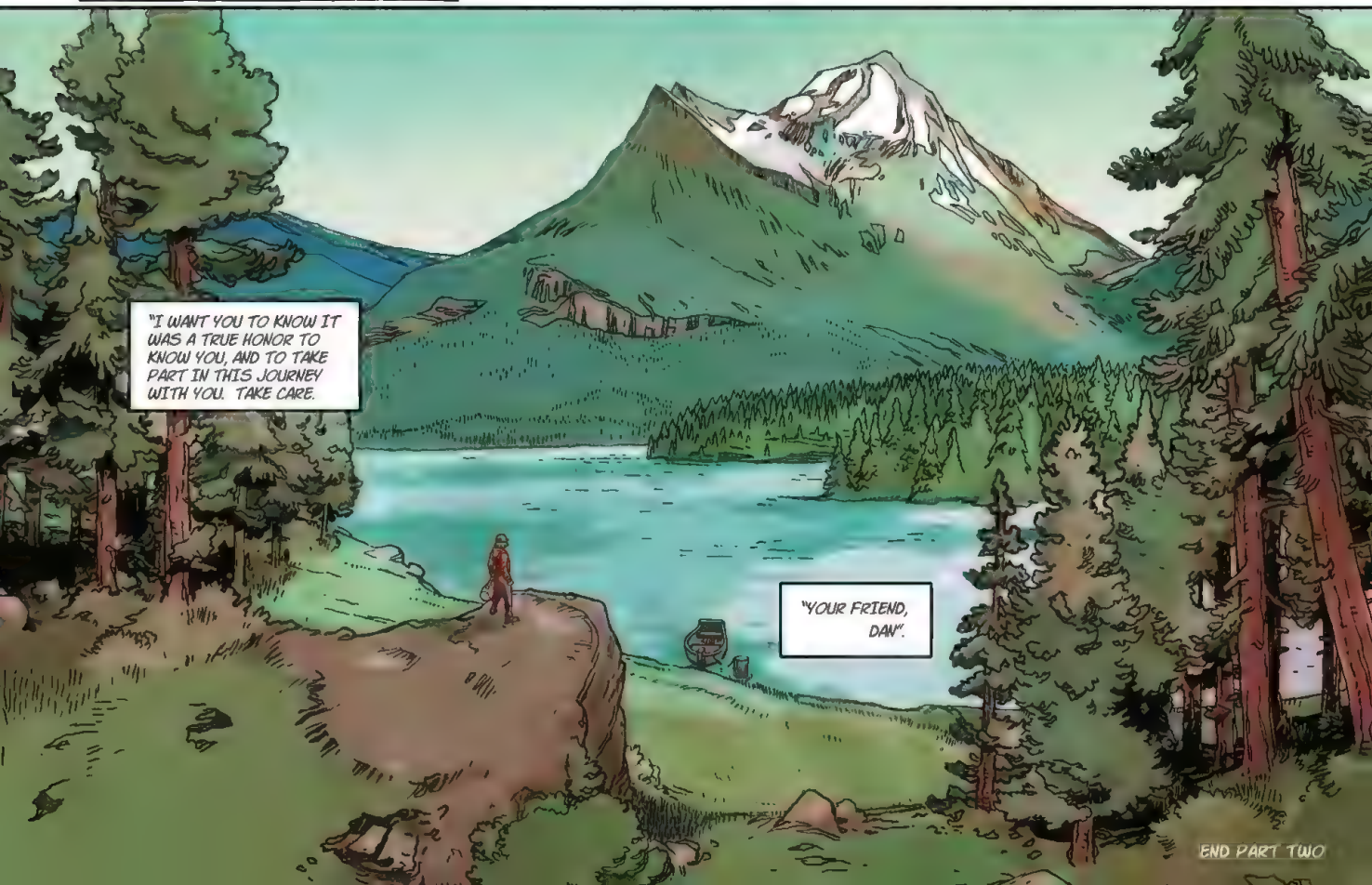
"BUT IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO, I'M LEAVING YOU
THE ADDRESS OF SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST.



"YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE,
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE
TO FIND YOU.



"HE'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TEACH
YOU.



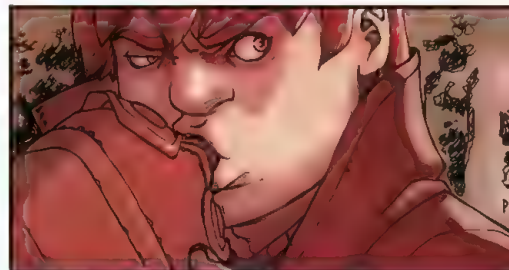
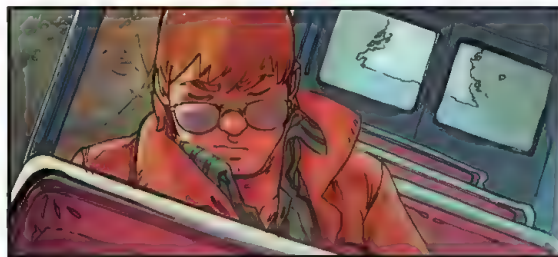
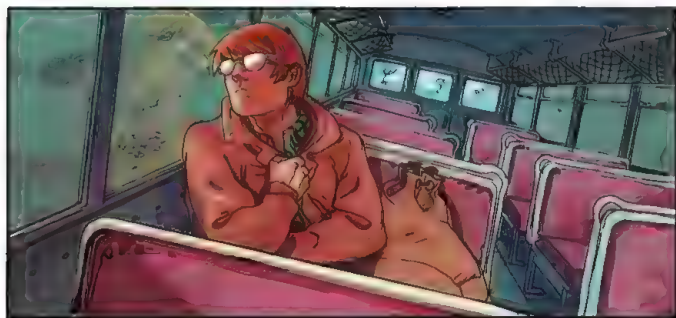
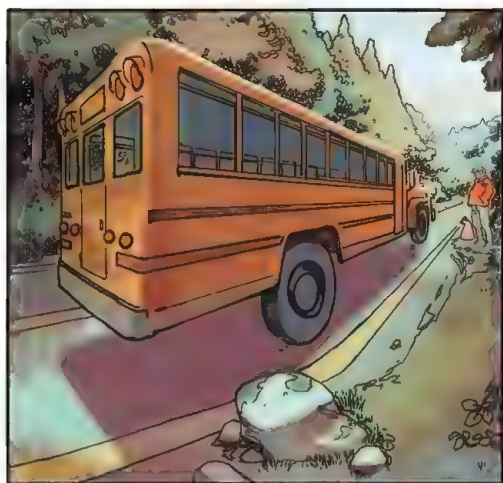
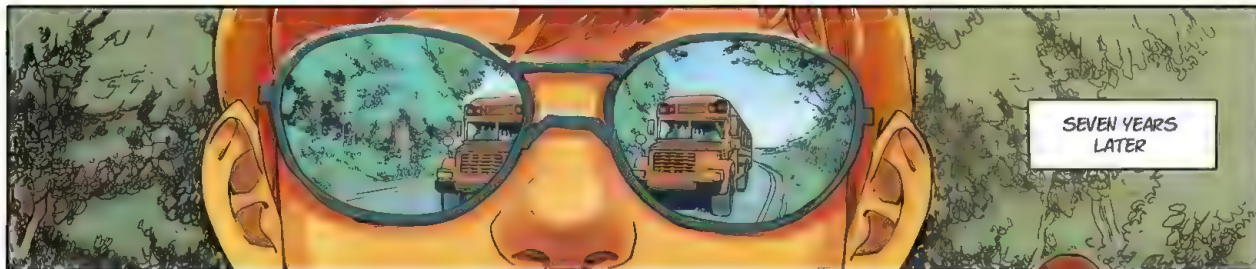
"I WANT YOU TO KNOW IT
WAS A TRUE HONOR TO
KNOW YOU, AND TO TAKE
PART IN THIS JOURNEY
WITH YOU. TAKE CARE.

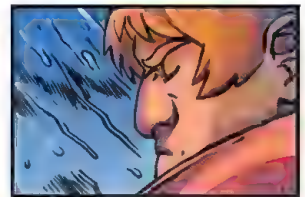
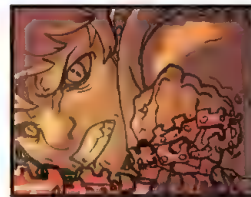
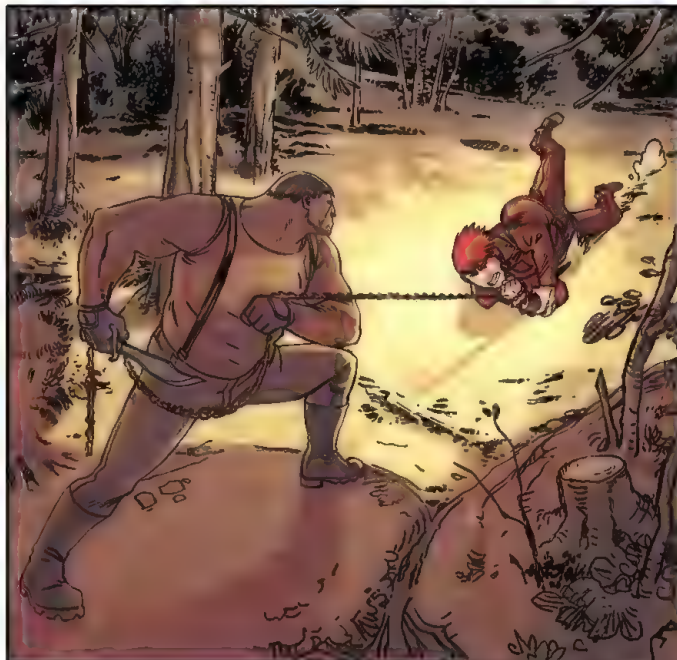
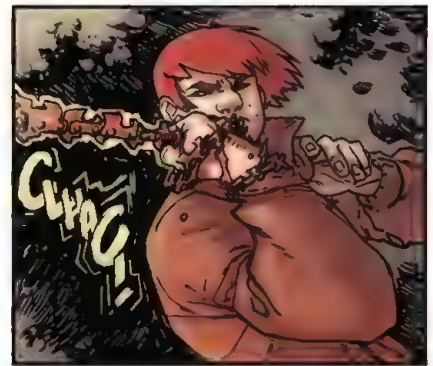
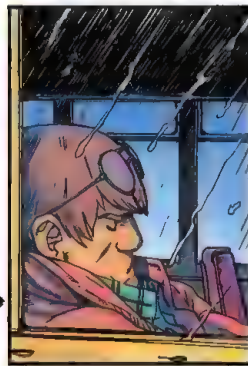
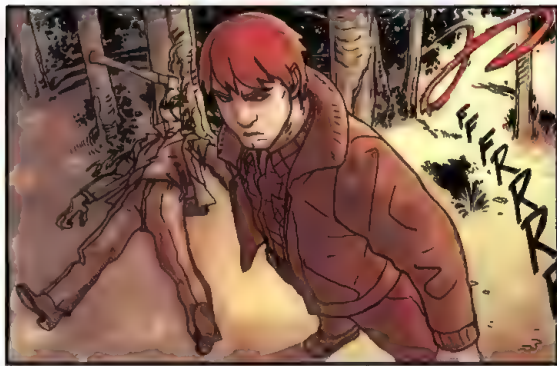
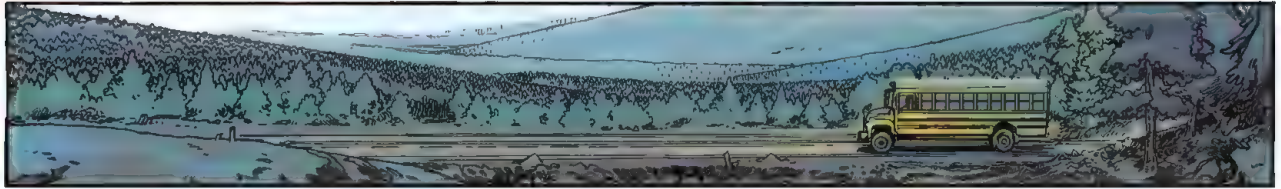
"YOUR FRIEND,
DAN".

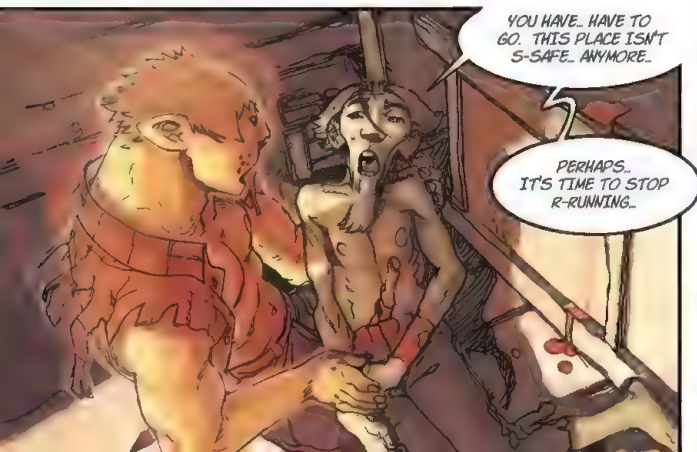
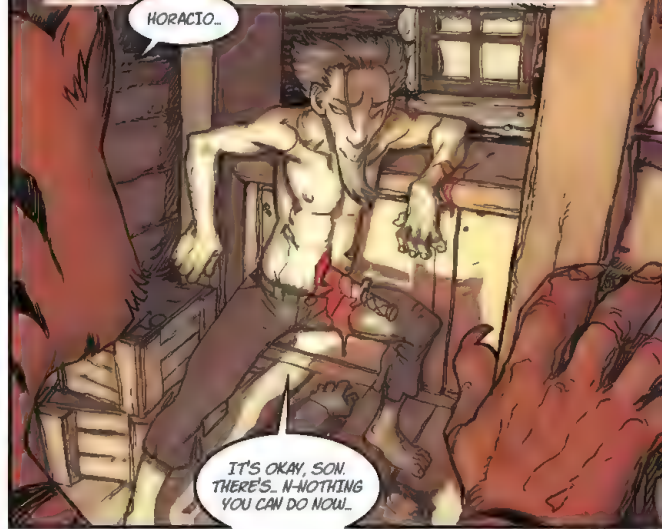
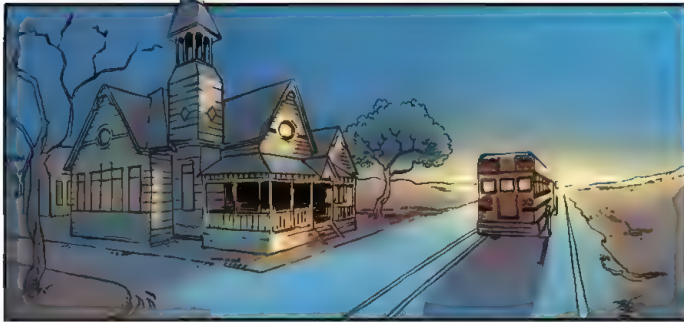
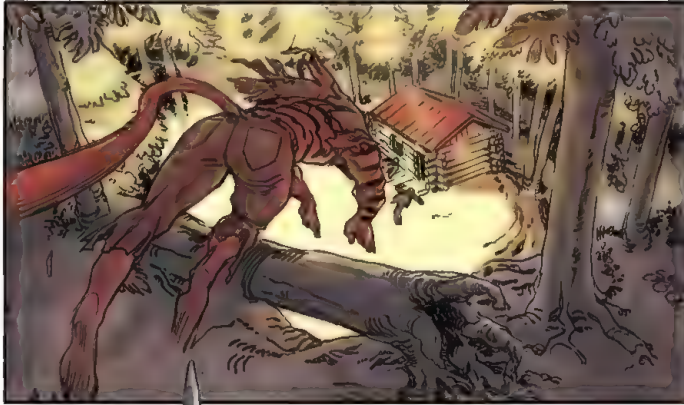
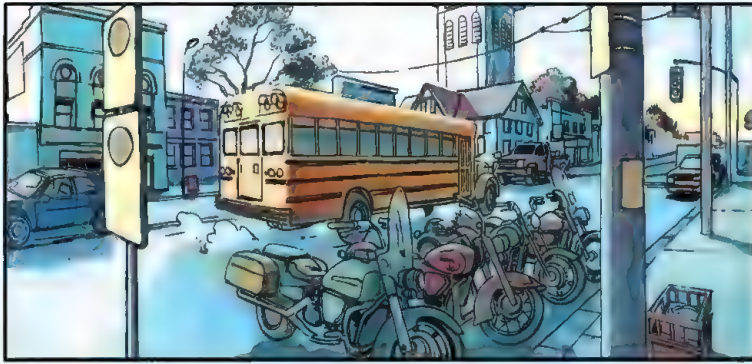


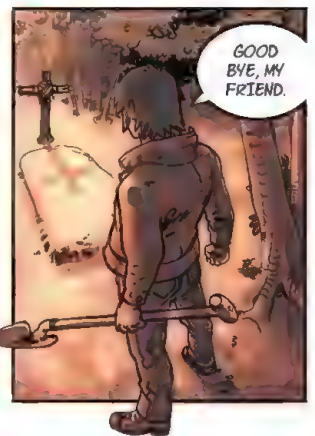
PART THREE: **UNIONS**











CHICAGO.

IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I CAME BACK.
IT WAS HARD AT FIRST, LOCATING MY
TARGETS WHILE AVOIDING ALL THOSE THINGS
I RAN AWAY FROM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

OLD DEMONS
DIE HARD.
ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY'RE
FAMILY.

THE MAFIA'S GRIP ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY IS
THRIVING LIKE NEVER BEFORE. MY FATHER, IN
THE ABSENCE OF ANY REAL COMPETITION, IS
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY MORE
THAN ANYONE. I CAN SEE IT EVERYWHERE.

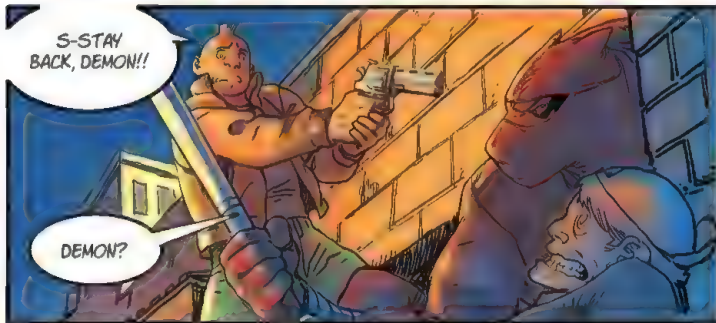
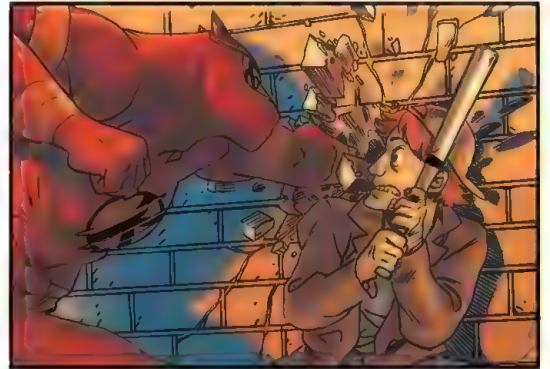
LIKE HORACIO SAID,
IT WAS TIME TO
STOP RUNNING.

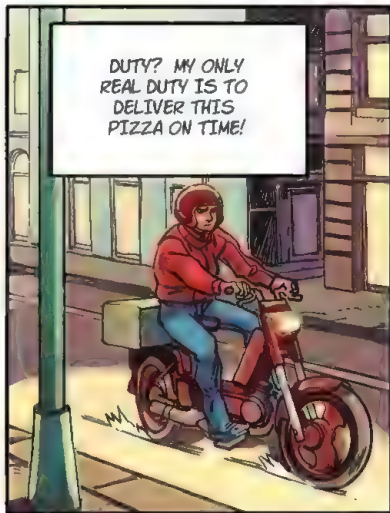
BUT MY PRIORITIES NEVER REALLY CHANGED:
IN MY FREE TIME, I'D FIGHT CRIME.

SO I GOT ORGANIZED.
I FOUND A JOB AND A PLACE, AND PICKED
UP MY LIFE WHERE I LEFT OFF.

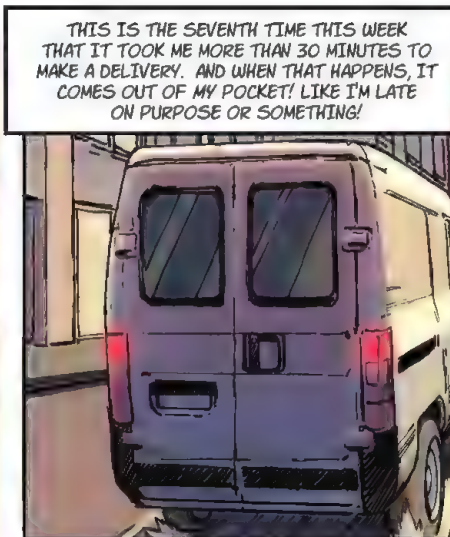
APPARENTLY WELL
ENOUGH THAT THE
PRESS HAS STARTED
TALKING ABOUT ME.

NOW THEY
CALL ME
THE-KLAW





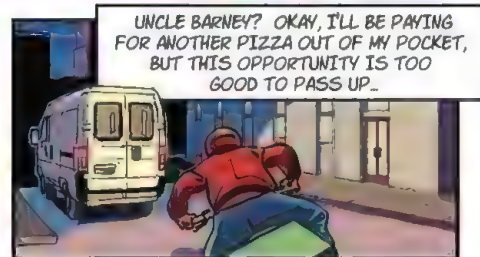
DUTY? MY ONLY
REAL DUTY IS TO
DELIVER THIS
PIZZA ON TIME!



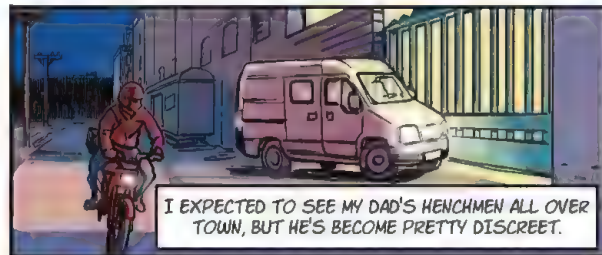
THIS IS THE SEVENTH TIME THIS WEEK
THAT IT TOOK ME MORE THAN 30 MINUTES TO
MAKE A DELIVERY. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT
COMES OUT OF MY POCKET! LIKE I'M LATE
ON PURPOSE OR SOMETHING!



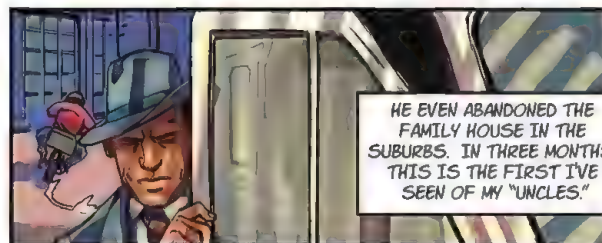
WHAT
THE...?!



UNCLE BARNEY? OKAY, I'LL BE PAYING
FOR ANOTHER PIZZA OUT OF MY POCKET,
BUT THIS OPPORTUNITY IS TOO
GOOD TO PASS UP.



I EXPECTED TO SEE MY DAD'S HENCHMEN ALL OVER
TOWN, BUT HE'S BECOME PRETTY DISCREET.

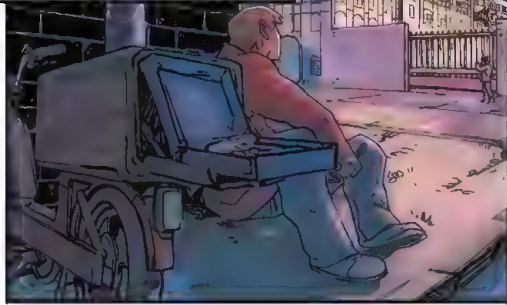


HE EVEN ABANDONED THE
FAMILY HOUSE IN THE
SUBURBS. IN THREE MONTHS,
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE
SEEN OF MY "UNCLES."

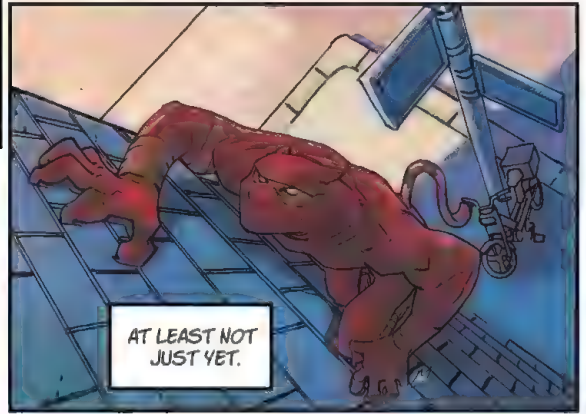
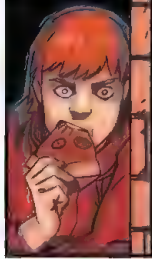


WITH ANY LUCK,
HE MIGHT LEAD
ME TO MY
FATHER.

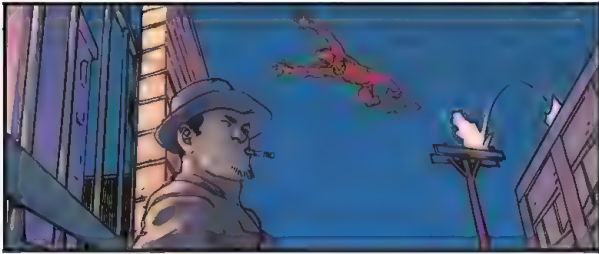
FOUR HOURS OF SITTING ON MY BUTT, AND AND NOTHING. NOT A PEEP. TIME TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE.



IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE SMART FOR THE KLAU TO JUST SHOW UP AND CLEAN HOUSE.



AT LEAST NOT JUST YET.



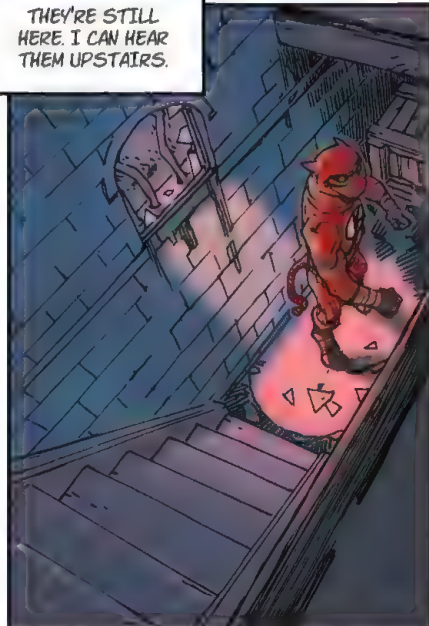
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE MY DAD'S HIDING.



I'LL COME BACK ANOTHER DAY TO FINISH THIS JOB.



THEY'RE STILL HERE. I CAN HEAR THEM UPSTAIRS.

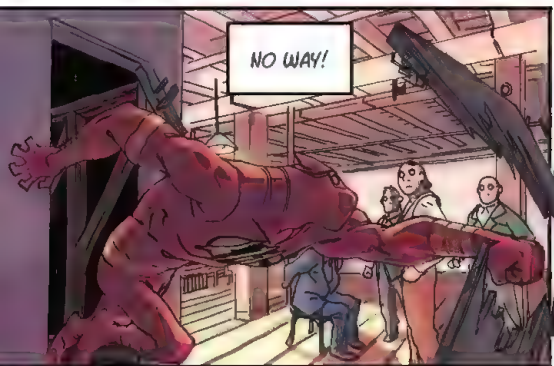


WHAT...?!



HELP!!!

CHANGE OF PLANS — TIME TO IMPROVISE!



NO WAY!



WHO'S THIS??



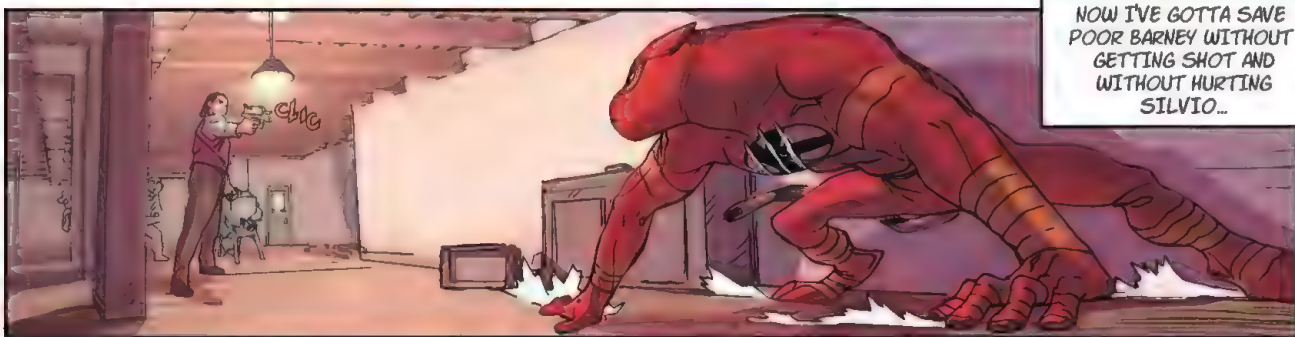
SILVIO? OH, I REALLY STEPPED IN IT THIS TIME.

I-IT'S THE KLAU!

WE'RE SCREWED!!



WHAT ARE THE ODDS I'D RUN INTO MY BROTHER?!



NOW I'VE GOTTA SAVE POOR BARNEY WITHOUT GETTING SHOT AND WITHOUT HURTING SILVIO...



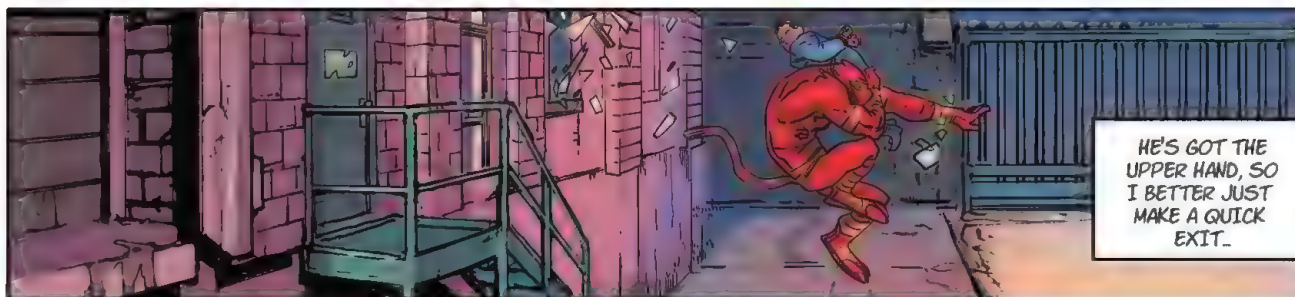
CATS CAN SEE IN THE DARK.



...THAT'S MY ADVANTAGE.



HE'S SHOOTING LIKE A MADMAN. I THINK HE HIT ONE OF HIS GUYS AND HE'S STILL FIRING.



HE'S GOT THE UPPER HAND, SO I BETTER JUST MAKE A QUICK EXIT.

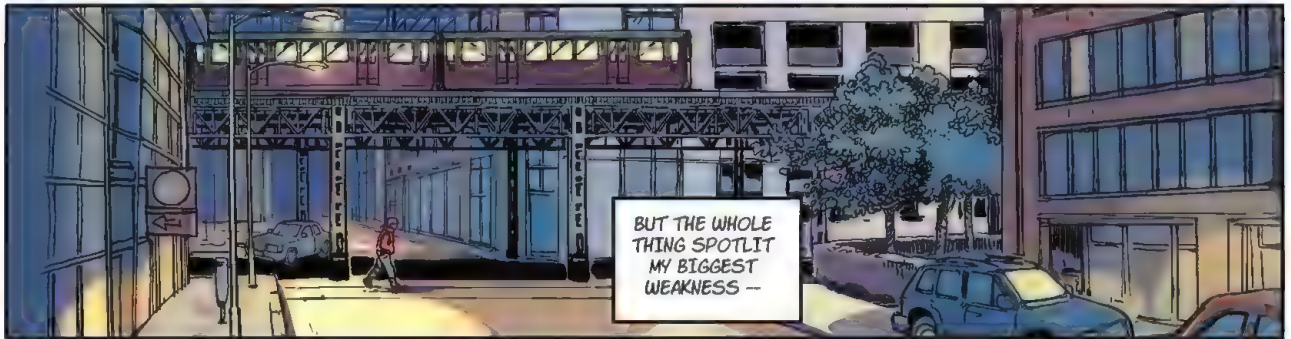


WHAT A
FIASCO.

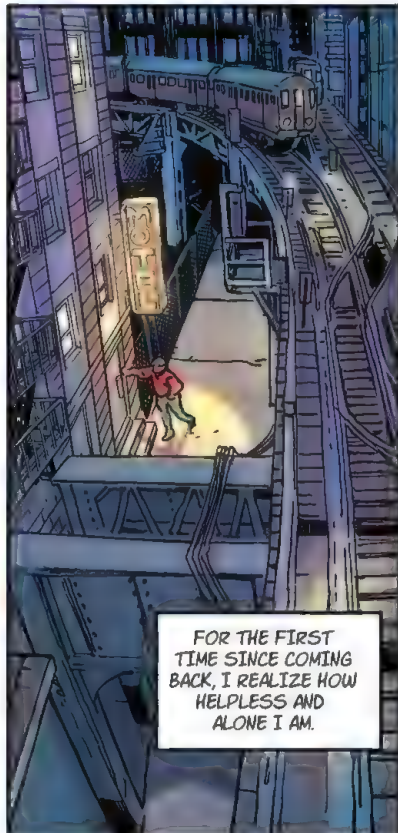
UNCLE BARNEY WAS
COMPLETELY TERRIFIED,
BUT I DONNO IF HE
WAS MORE SCARED OF
ME OR THE FAMILY.



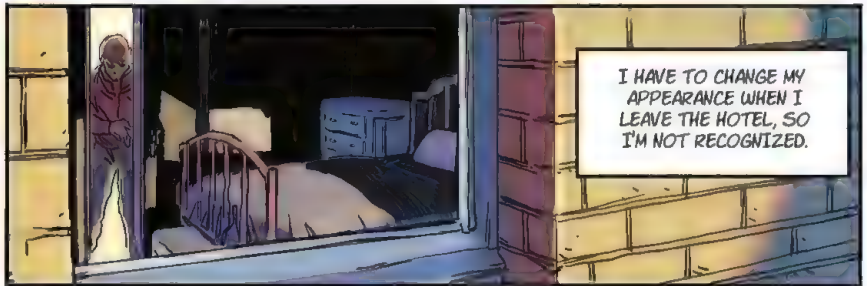
I DITCHED HIM BEFORE HE COULD
TELL ME ANYTHING USEFUL.



BUT THE WHOLE
THING SPOTLIT
MY BIGGEST
WEAKNESS --



FOR THE FIRST
TIME SINCE COMING
BACK, I REALIZE HOW
HELPLESS AND
ALONE I AM.



I HAVE TO CHANGE MY
APPEARANCE WHEN I
LEAVE THE HOTEL, SO
I'M NOT RECOGNIZED.

IF I'M GOING TO KEEP FIGHTING
CRIME, I'M GOING TO NEED SOME TOOLS
AND EQUIPMENT.



...AND I KNOW
EXACTLY WHERE
TO FIND WHAT
I NEED.



HERE WE ARE, BACK WHERE WE STARTED.

HASN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE LAST TIME.



I GUESS SQUATTERS KNOW BETTER THAN TO BREAK IN HERE.



WHO'D WANNA RISK GETTING CAUGHT BY HAWLEY OR HIS GANG?



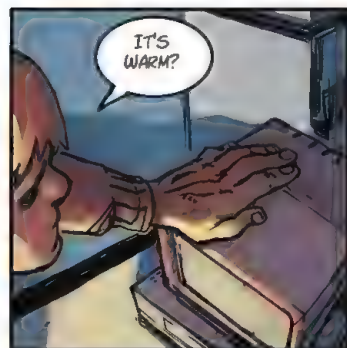
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S ALL STILL HERE!



BINGO, THIS WILL HELP A LOT..



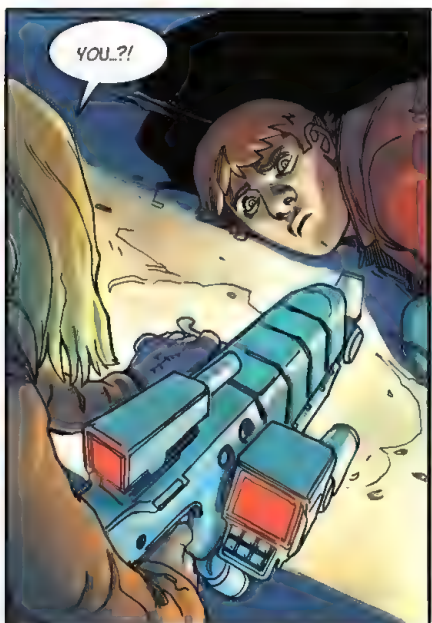
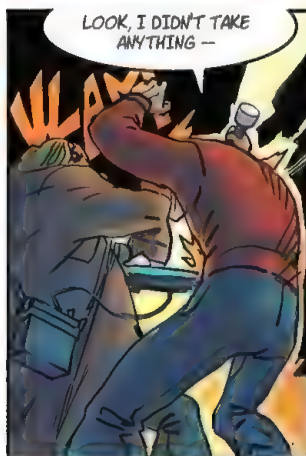
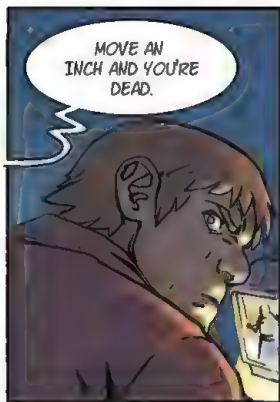
WHA..?



IT'S WARM?



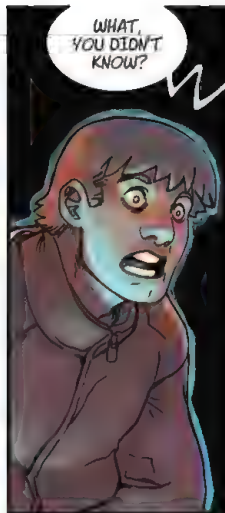
WAIT.. IS THAT --?



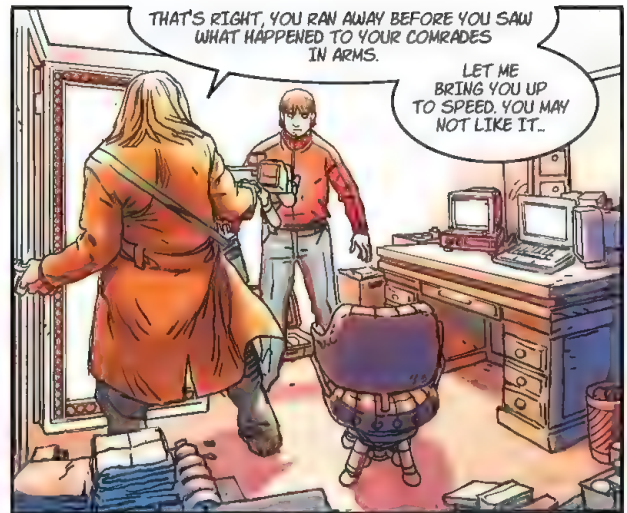


YOU MUST BE THAT AGENT HAWLEY TALKED ABOUT... WITH THE TALON IN HIS CHEST...

MAY HE REST IN PEACE



WHAT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?



THAT'S RIGHT, YOU RAN AWAY BEFORE YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR COMRADES IN ARMS.

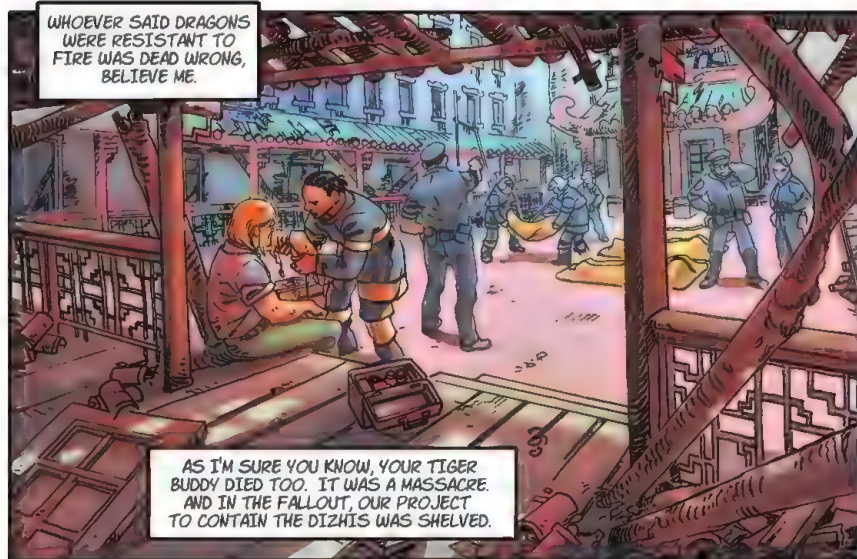
LET ME BRING YOU UP TO SPEED, YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT...



WHEN YOUR FATHER TOOK OFF, HE SET OFF ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES TO VAPORIZE EVERYONE IN THE SEWER SYSTEM BEHIND HIM.



HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE DRAGON ALSO TRIED TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE TUNNELS

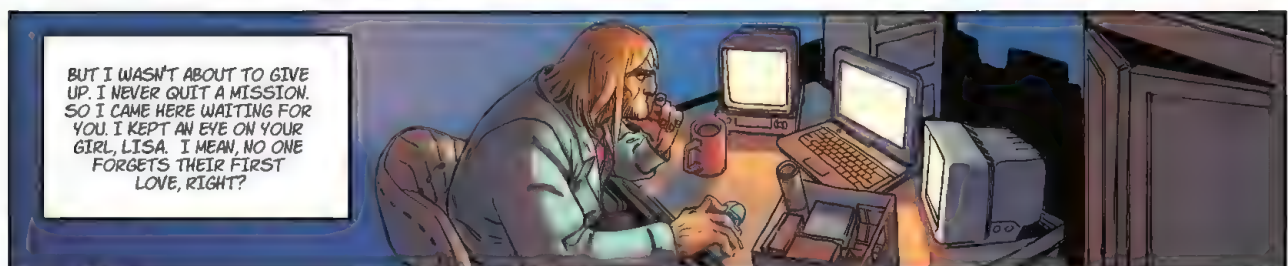


WHOEVER SAID DRAGONS WERE RESISTANT TO FIRE WAS DEAD WRONG, BELIEVE ME.

AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW, YOUR TIGER BUDDY DIED TOO. IT WAS A MASSACRE. AND IN THE FALLOUT, OUR PROJECT TO CONTAIN THE DIZHIS WAS SHELVED.

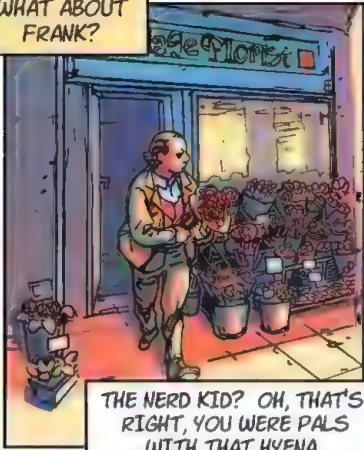


THEY HAD ME OVER A LEDGE. THE DEATH OF SO MANY AGENTS WAS WRITTEN UP AS AN UNFORGIVABLE FAILURE. I WAS OUT.



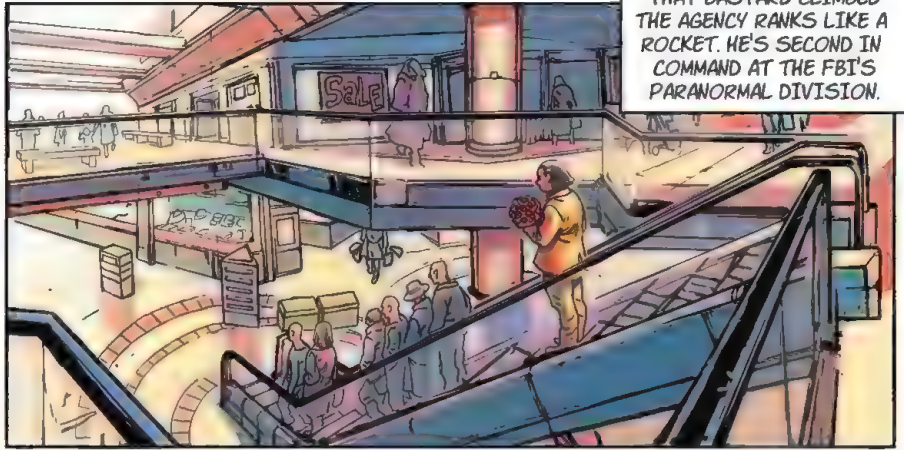
BUT I WASN'T ABOUT TO GIVE UP. I NEVER QUIT A MISSION. SO I CAME HERE WAITING FOR YOU. I KEPT AN EYE ON YOUR GIRL, LISA. I MEAN, NO ONE FORGETS THEIR FIRST LOVE, RIGHT?

WHAT ABOUT FRANK?



THE NERD KID? OH, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU WERE PALS WITH THAT HYENA.

THAT BASTARD CLIMBED THE AGENCY RANKS LIKE A ROCKET. HE'S SECOND IN COMMAND AT THE FBI'S PARANORMAL DIVISION.



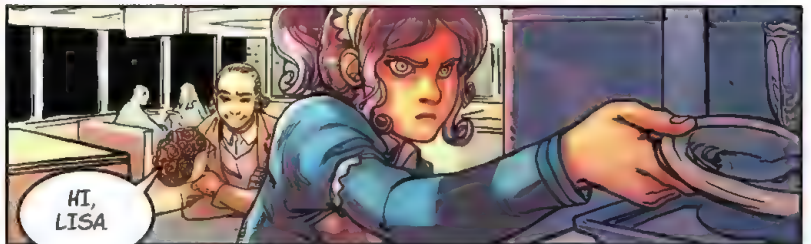
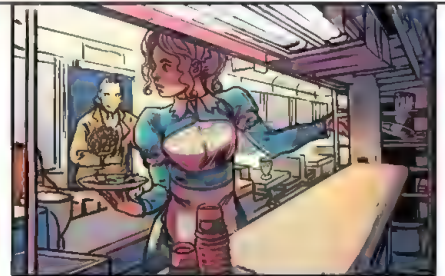
WAKE UP, KID. YOU'VE HEARD OF AREA 51? WELL THERE'S WAY MORE THAN 50 OTHERS LIKE THAT OUT THERE...



HE'S GOT ALL OF THE DIZHI PRISONERS BURIED IN ONE OF THEIR HIDDEN HANGARS IN SOME TOP-SECRET FACILITY SOMEWHERE.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



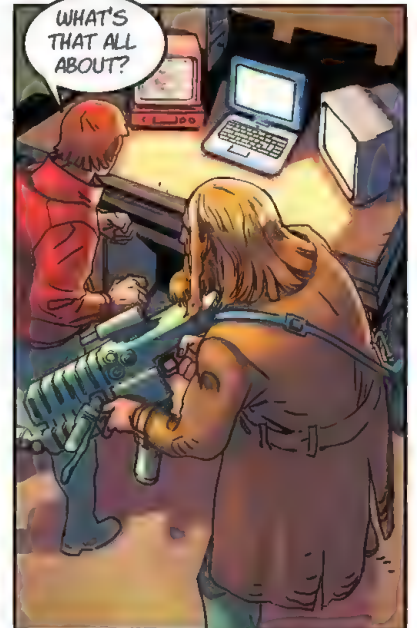
HI, LISA



HERE, THESE ARE FOR YOU. A... PEACE OFFERING.



PEACE?! YOU DESTROYED MY FAMILY! I'LL NEVER MAKE PEACE WITH YOU!!

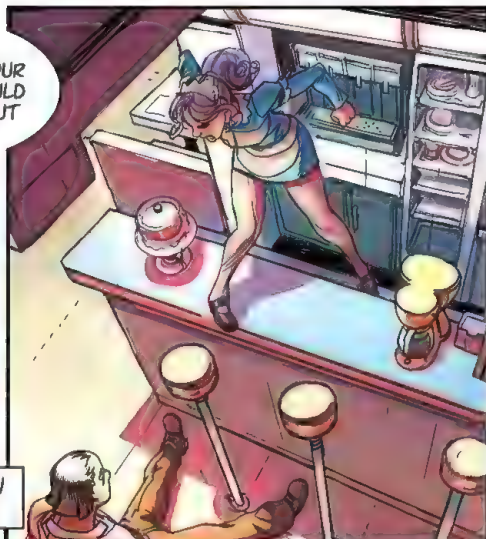
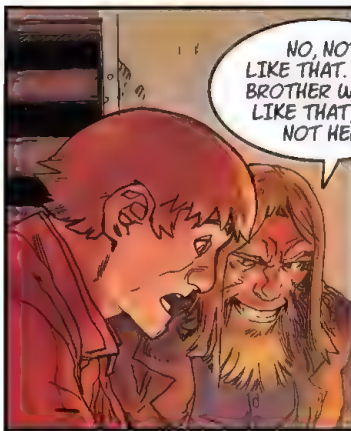


WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

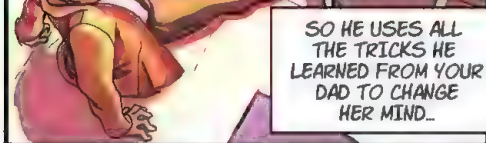
THAT? THAT'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND AND
YOUR BROTHER... THEY HAVE SORT OF
A... COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP.



NO, NOT
LIKE THAT. YOUR
BROTHER WOULD
LIKE THAT, BUT
NOT HER.



...FIRST CHARM AND GIFTS, THEN
BLACKMAIL AND INTIMIDATION.

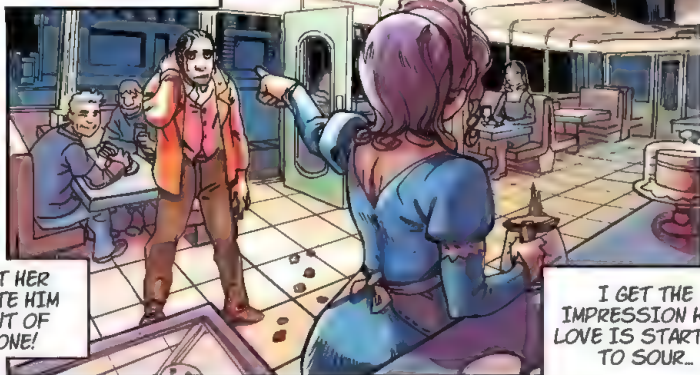
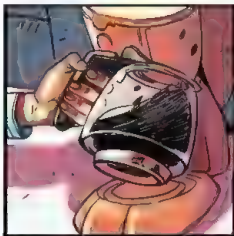


SO HE USES ALL
THE TRICKS HE
LEARNED FROM YOUR
DAD TO CHANGE
HER MIND...

AFTER HER MOTHER
COMMITTED SUICIDE,
HER FATHER FELL
INTO DEPRESSION
AND LOST HIS JOB.



A REAL
MESS.



LOOK AT HER
HUMILIATE HIM
IN FRONT OF
EVERYONE!

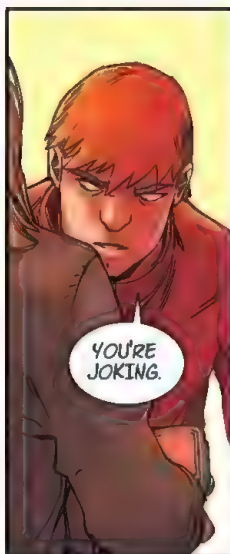
I GET THE
IMPRESSION HIS
LOVE IS STARTING
TO SOUR...

I HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING!

WOAH, SLOW DOWN,
KID. YOU DON'T SEEM
TO GET THAT YOU'RE
MY PRISONER
NOW.



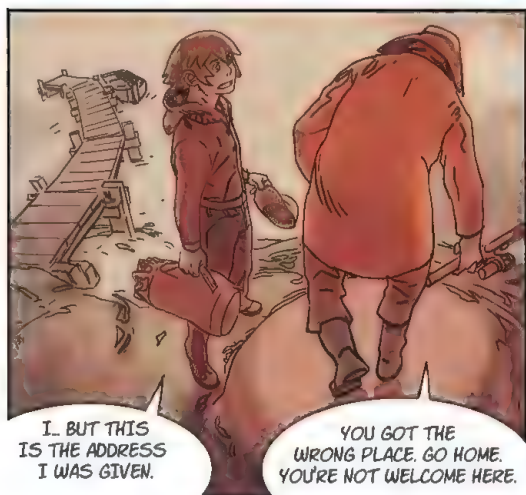
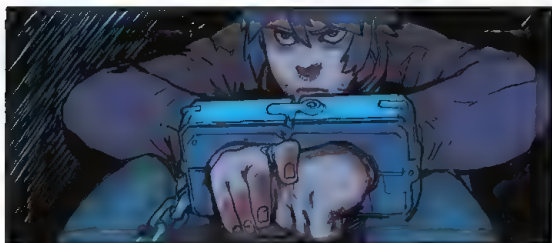
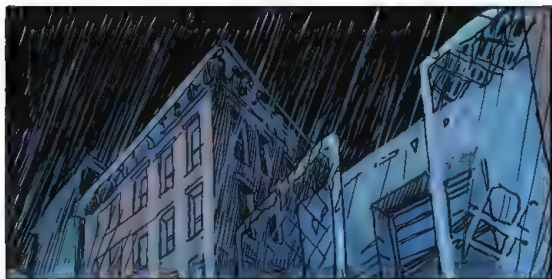
YOU'RE
JOKING.



NOPE.
PUT THOSE
ON.





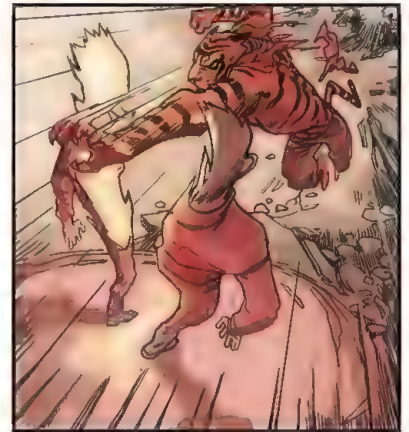


WAIT! I'VE COME A LONG WAY JUST TO GET HERE. IT'LL TAKE HOURS TO GET BACK TO TOWN. IT'LL BE DARK BY THEN.



CAN YOU PUT ME UP FOR THE NIGHT? I'LL LEAVE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.







I'M SORRY,
IT'S JUST... I'M SO TIRED,
AND I GET JUMPY...



SO YOU'RE
HORACIO?

EVERYONE
THINKS I'M DEAD,
AND I AIM TO KEEP
IT THAT WAY.

I DON'T
KNOW WHY DAN
SENT YOU HERE.
HE —



HE'S
DEAD.



HE JUST GAVE
ME THE ADDRESS OF
SOMEONE WHO COULD
HELP ME.

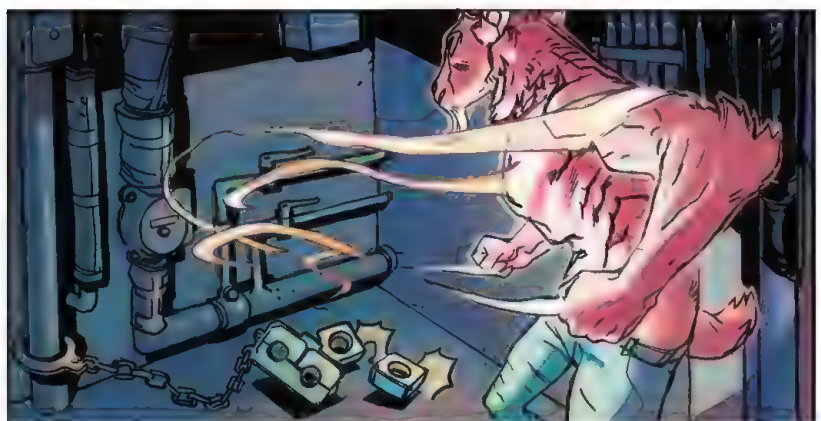


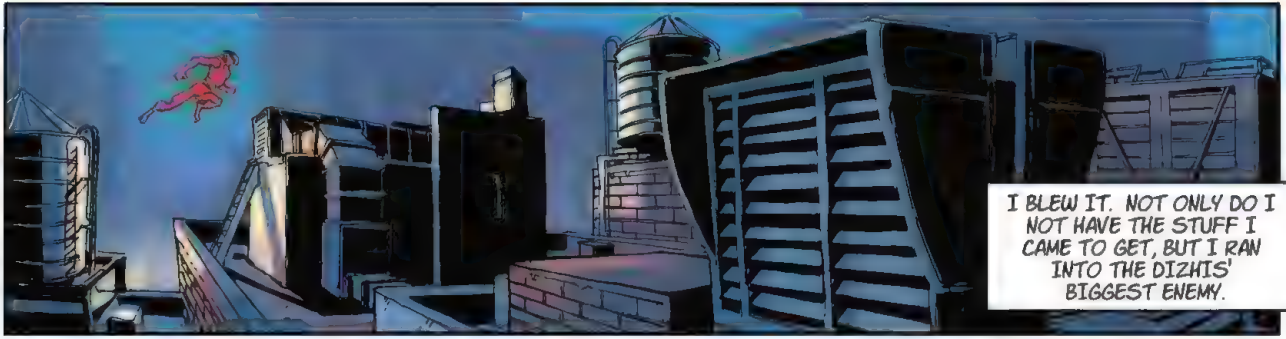
YOU DON'T NEED
SOMEONE TO HELP
YOU.

YOU NEED
SOMEONE TO
COMPLETE YOUR
TRAINING.



COME ON,
LET'S DO THIS.





I BLEW IT. NOT ONLY DO I NOT HAVE THE STUFF I CAME TO GET, BUT I RAN INTO THE DIZHIS' BIGGEST ENEMY.



BUT I DON'T CARE. I FOUND LISA!



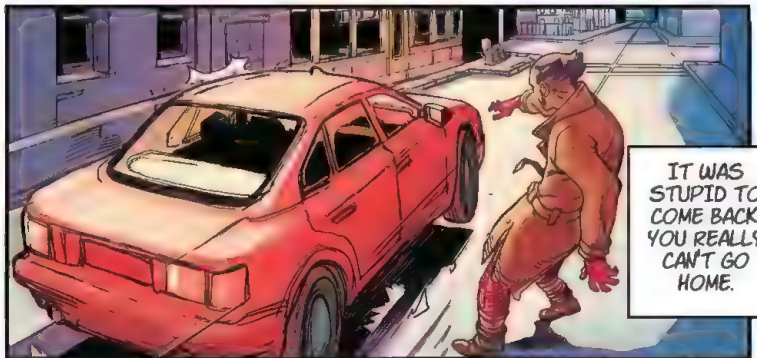
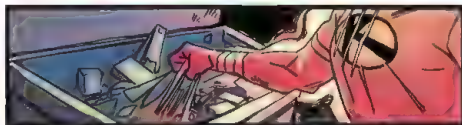
THE REST DOESN'T MATTER. WHY START A WAR WITH THE MOB?



AS SOON AS THEY'RE GONE, SOMEONE ELSE STEPS IN.



NO COSTUMED HERO WILL EVER ERADICATE CRIME. IT'S JUST NIGHT AFTER NIGHT OF FIGHTING.



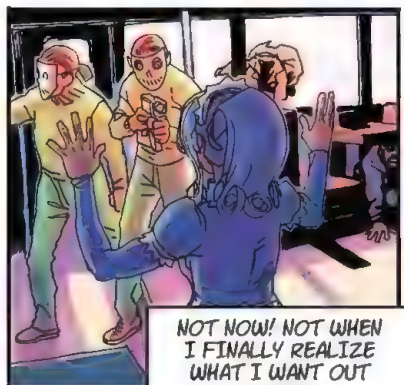
IT WAS STUPID TO COME BACK. YOU REALLY CAN'T GO HOME.



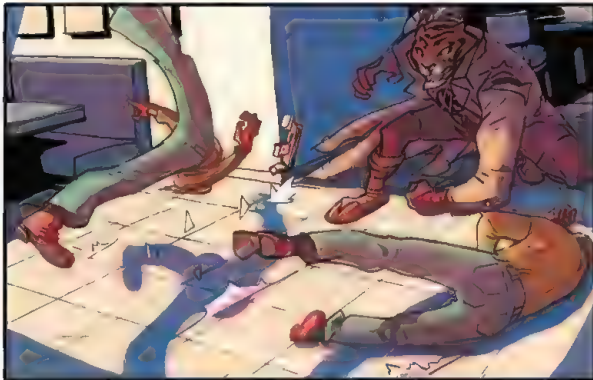
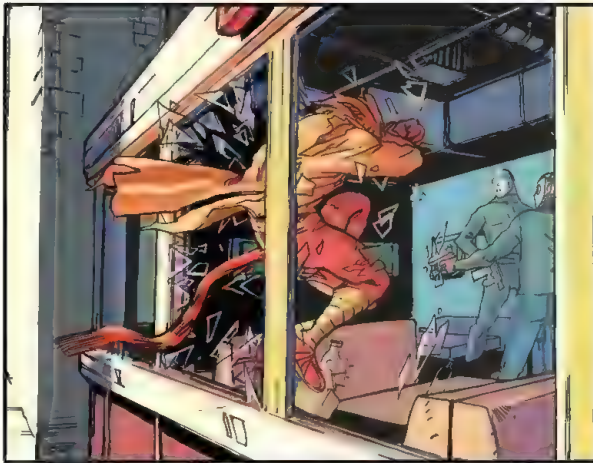
THINGS CHANGE.

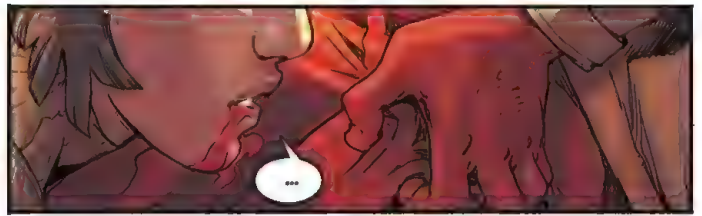
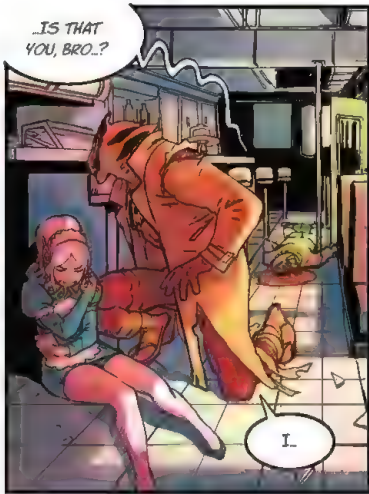


OH NO...

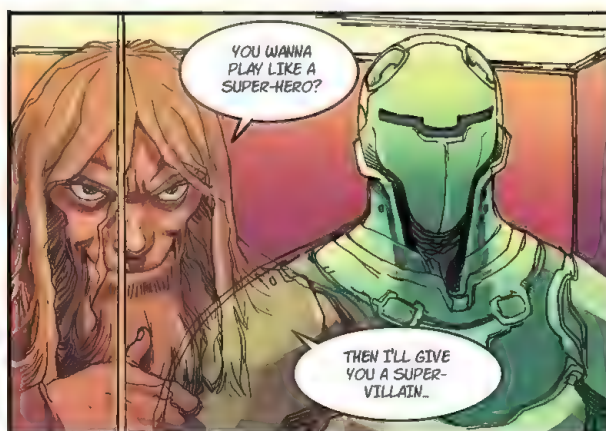
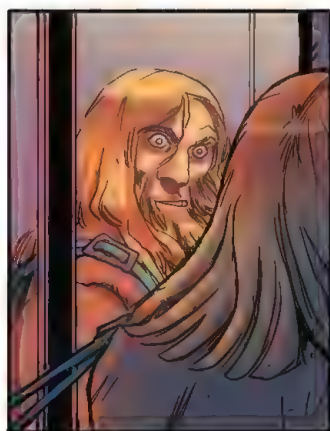
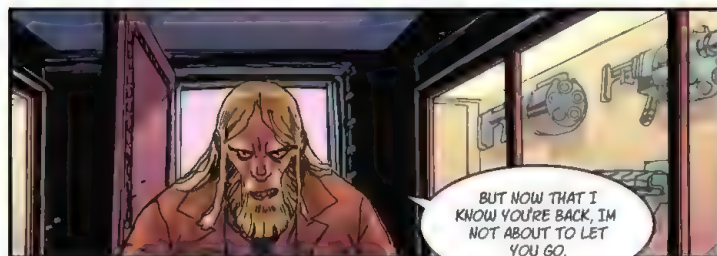
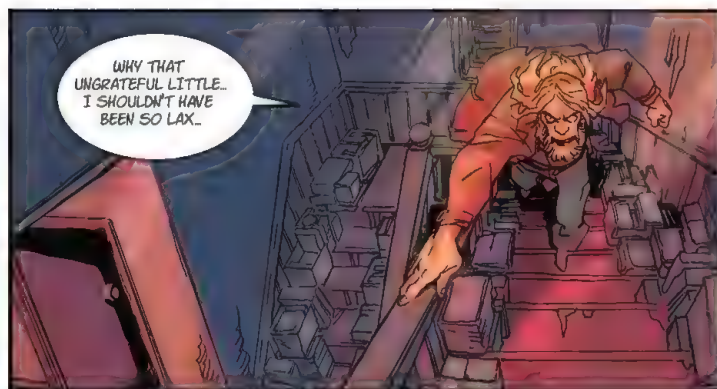
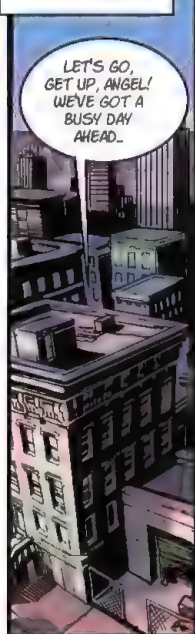


NOT NOW! NOT WHEN I FINALLY REALIZE WHAT I WANT OUT OF LIFE.





MEANWHILE



LATER

LISTEN, MISS,
YOU CAN'T DENY THE
EVIDENCE.

WE HAVE SEVERAL
WITNESSES WHO SAY YOU
KNOW THIS INDIVIDUAL.

NOBODY'S CHARGED YOU WITH
ANYTHING. EVERYONE AGREES THAT YOU
WERE ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE.

...BUT YOUR BUDDY CAN'T GO
AROUND PLAYING VIGILANTE.
THAT'S AGAINST THE LAW.

HE'S NOT
MY BUDDY.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY
CALL WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
"OBSTRUCTION OF
JUSTICE."

YOU CAN GO
TO JAIL FOR
THAT.

I WISH I DID.
I MEAN, I DIDN'T EVEN
HAVE TIME TO THANK
HIM --

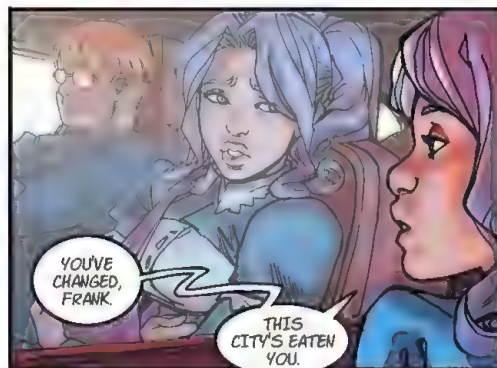
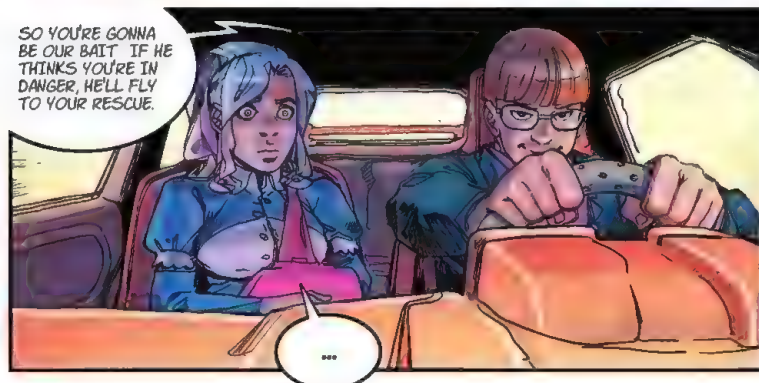
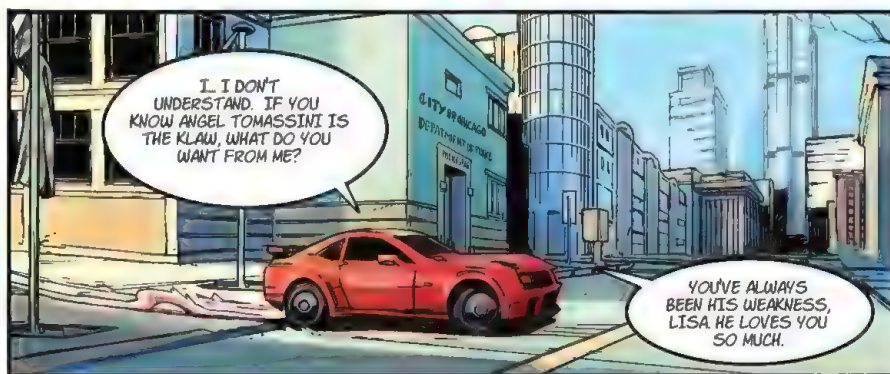
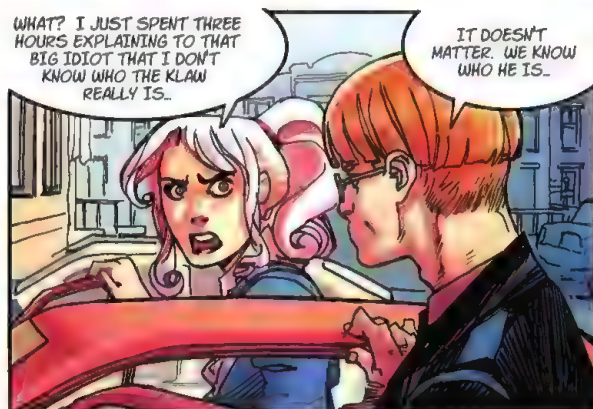
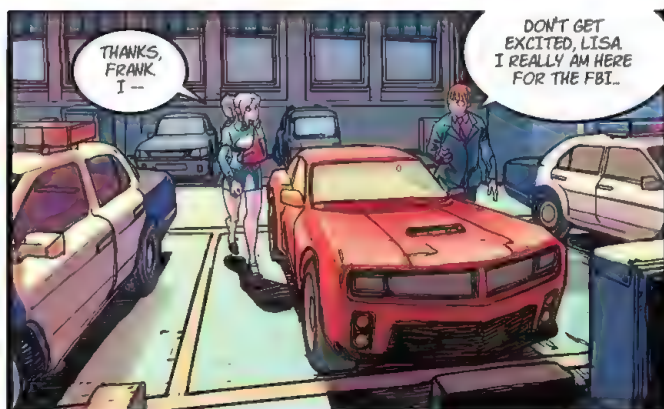
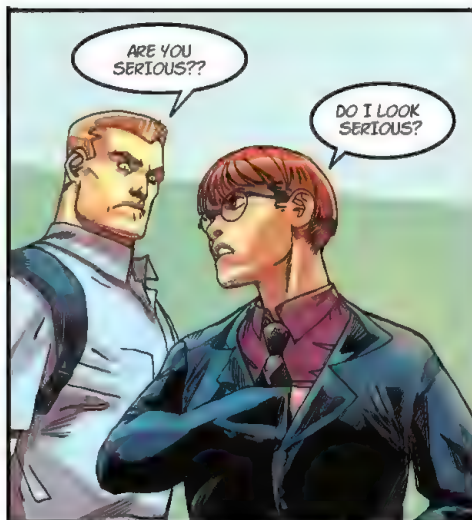
STOP
LYING!!

BUT I CAN'T
TELL YOU ANYTHING
I DON'T KNOW. AND
I DON'T KNOW
THE GUY.

LISTEN TO ME -- YOU'RE
GONNA TELL US WHO THE KLAU
REALLY IS, OR --

AGENT
LEWIS!
STOP THIS
IMMEDIATELY!

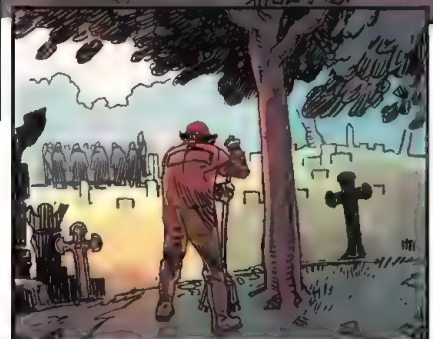
?!





I KNOW.
I SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.

THE COPS WOULD LOVE
TO CATCH THE CITY'S DARK
HERO STALKING A MOB
FUNERAL.



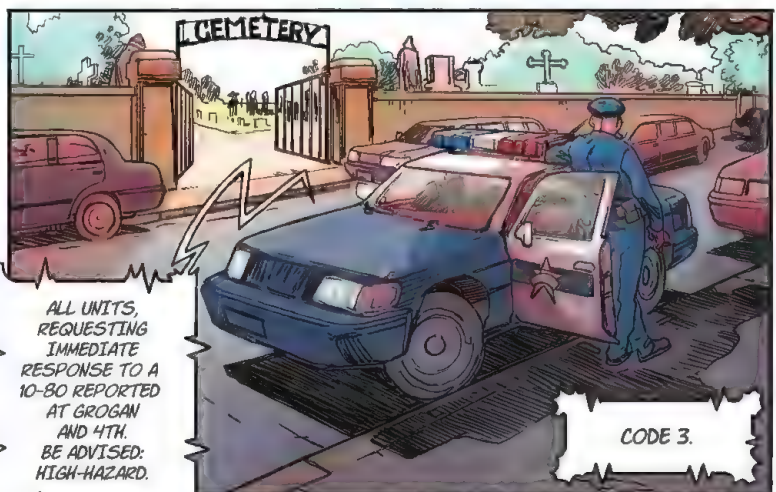
AND MY FATHER'S "FRIENDS" WOULD
LOVE TO CATCH THE GUY WHO KILLED
HIS PRECIOUS, PRODIGAL SON.

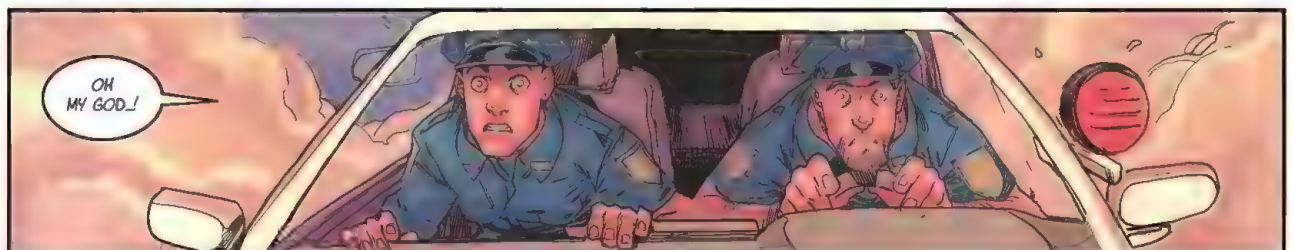


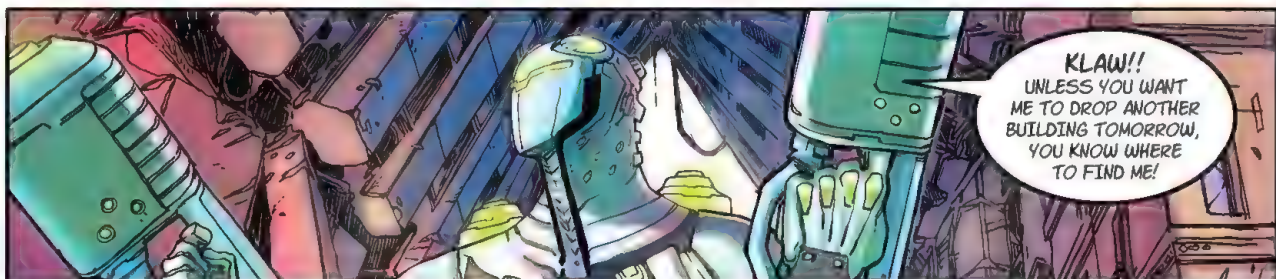
BUT NONE OF
THAT MATTERS.
I JUST WANT TO
SHARE ONE LAST
THING WITH MY
OLD MAN.



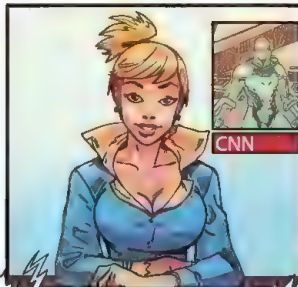
I HOPE I'M NOT
OFFENDING MY
BROTHER BY BEING
HERE...



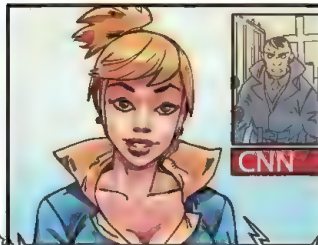




IF YOU DON'T COME
SEE ME, YOU'LL HAVE THE DEATHS
OF THOUSANDS ON YOUR
CONSCIENCE. THINK
ABOUT IT.



AFTER SENDING HIS
MESSAGE, THE AS-YET
UNIDENTIFIED TERRORIST
DISAPPEARED IN THE
SMOKE AND RUBBLE.
POLICE WERE UNABLE TO
LOCATE THE SUSPECT,
ALTHOUGH THE SEARCH
CONTINUES.



THE SUSPECT IS NOT THE
ONLY ONE SEEKING THE
MASKED VIGILANTE KNOWN
ONLY AS "THE KLAU".
BUSINESSMAN PHILIP
TOMASSINI, WHO RECENTLY
LOST HIS SON TO THE
VIGILANTE, VOICED HIS
OWN APPEAL EARLIER..

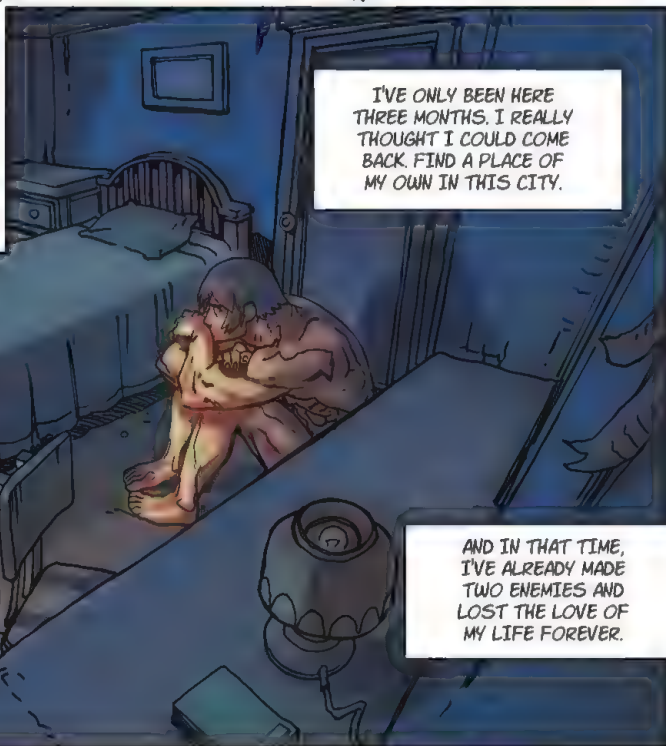
MY BOY WAS THE
INNOCENT VICTIM IN AN
ALTERCATION BETWEEN A
PETTY THIEF AND THE MASKED
KILLER WHO HAS BEEN
TERRORIZING THIS
CITY.



THE POLICE
SEEM POWERLESS
TO FIND THIS "KLAU",
SO I'M OFFERING A
REWARD OF \$500,000
TO ANYONE WITH ANY
INFORMATION THAT
LEADS TO HIS
CAPTURE!

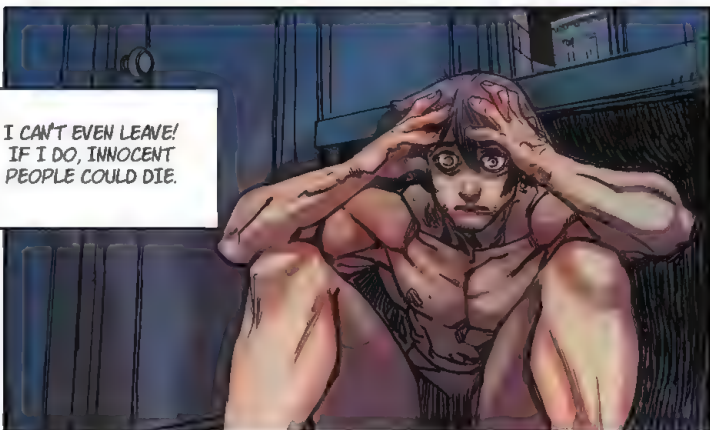


I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE
THREE MONTHS. I REALLY
THOUGHT I COULD COME
BACK. FIND A PLACE OF
MY OWN IN THIS CITY.

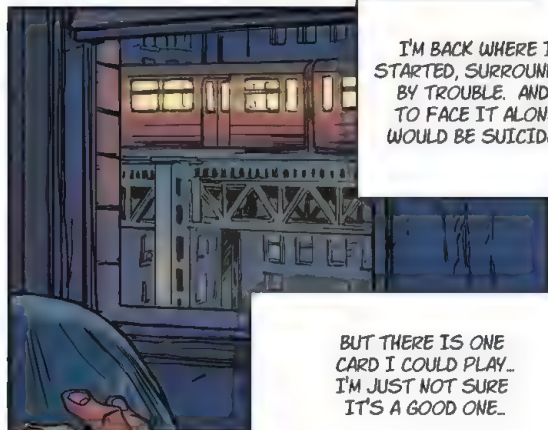


AND IN THAT TIME,
I'VE ALREADY MADE
TWO ENEMIES AND
LOST THE LOVE OF
MY LIFE FOREVER.

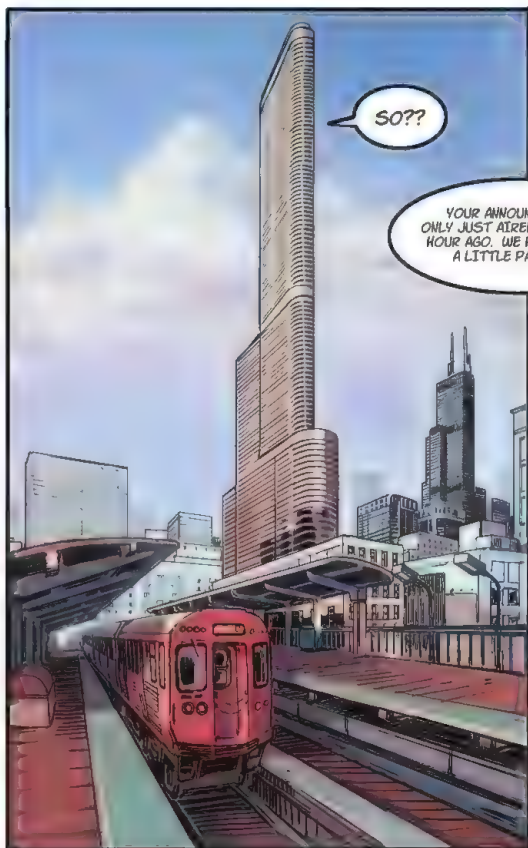
I CAN'T EVEN LEAVE!
IF I DO, INNOCENT
PEOPLE COULD DIE.



I'M BACK WHERE I
STARTED, SURROUNDED
BY TROUBLE. AND
TO FACE IT ALONE
WOULD BE SUICIDE..

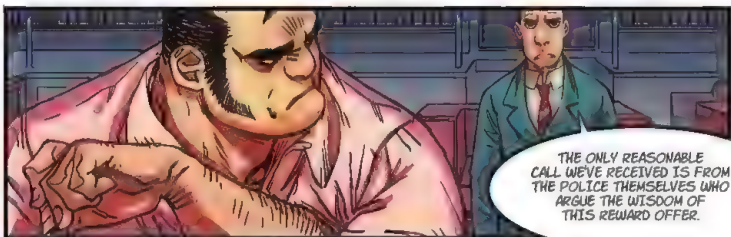
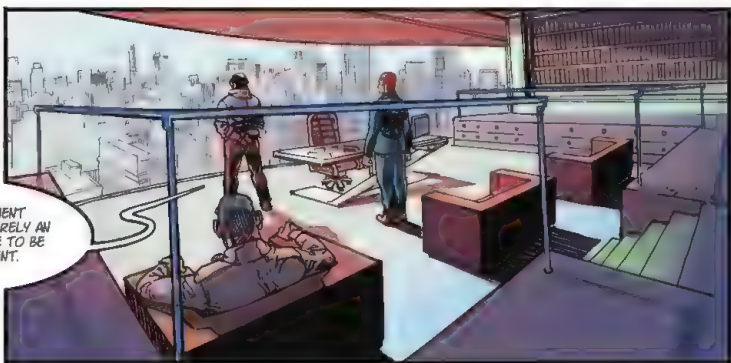


BUT THERE IS ONE
CARD I COULD PLAY..
I'M JUST NOT SURE
IT'S A GOOD ONE..



SO??

YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY JUST Aired BARELY AN HOUR AGO. WE HAVE TO BE A LITTLE PATIENT.



THE ONLY REASONABLE CALL WE'VE RECEIVED IS FROM THE POLICE THEMSELVES WHO ARGUE THE WISDOM OF THIS REWARD OFFER.



I DON'T GIVE RAT'S ASS

AS YOUR LAWYER, I THINK YOU REALLY --



I JUST TOLD YOU I DON'T CARE!!

GAM!



CALM DOWN, PHIL. THE LITTLE GUY MEANS WELL.

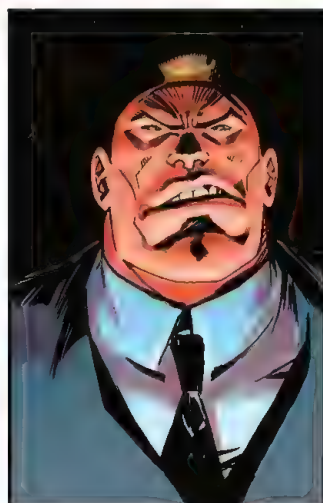
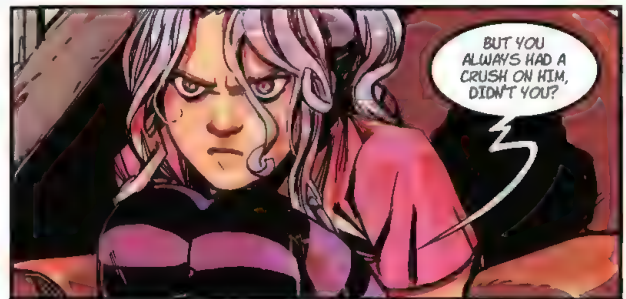
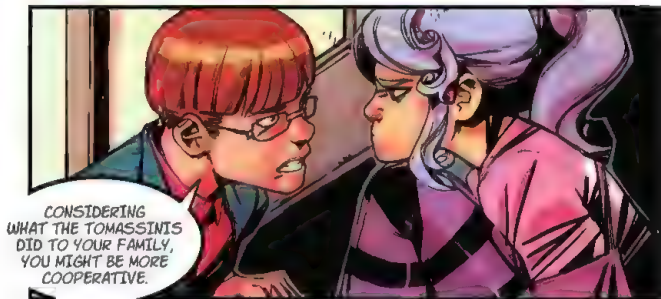
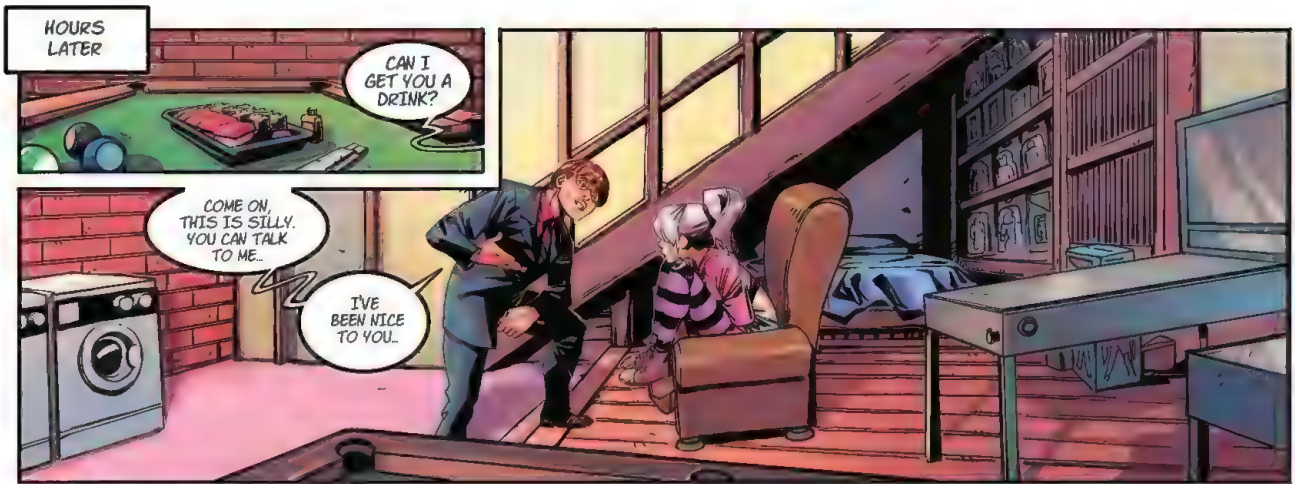


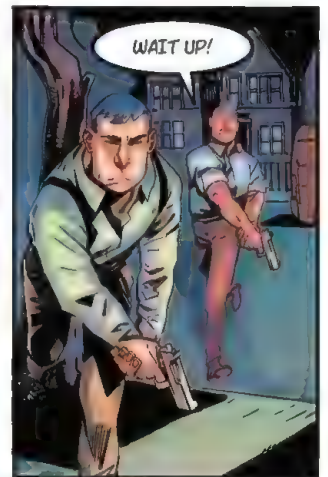
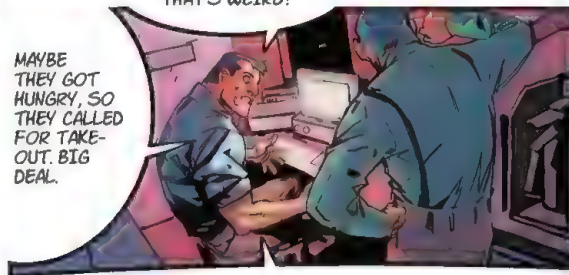
TELL ME, GUS... YOU'RE PRETTY CALM FOR A GUY WHO TOLD ME THAT THE ONLY WITNESS TO SILVIO'S MURDER HAS GONE MISSING...

HEH HEH



THAT'S 'CUZ I KNOW WHERE SHE'S HIDING!







YOU KNOW I'M WITH THE FBI, RIGHT?

YEAH.

AND I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR KIDNAPPING AN AGENT IN THE FIELD?



WHY? IS IT WORSE THAN KILLING YOU?

REALLY, ANGE? WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR FRIENDSHIP?

STOP.



I HEARD YOU RELOCATED THE DIZHI CONTAINMENT FACILITY...

OKAY... CAN I AT LEAST ASK WHERE WE'RE GOING?

DON'T TALK ABOUT OUR FRIENDSHIP.

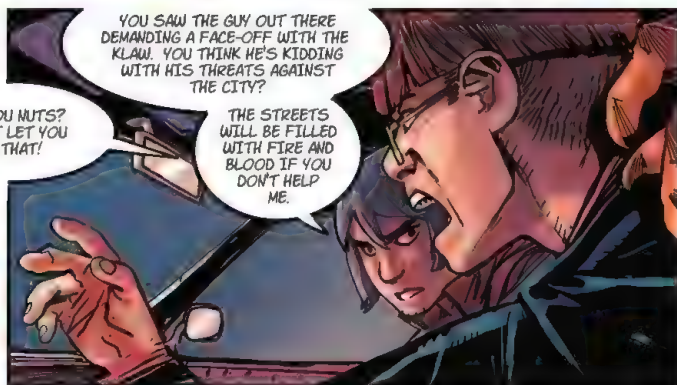
YOU TELL ME.

YEAH...



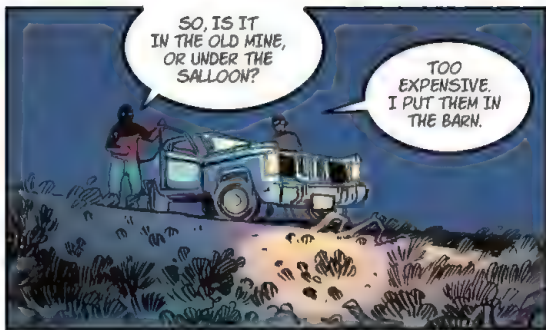
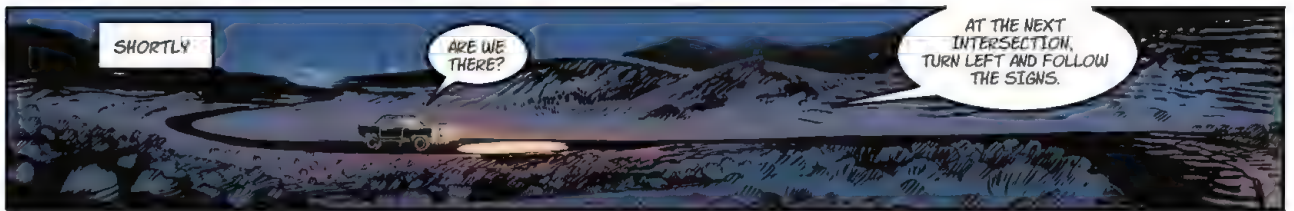
GOOD. I WANT THEM.

ARE YOU NUTS? I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!



YOU SAW THE GUY OUT THERE DEMANDING A FACE-OFF WITH THE KLAU. YOU THINK HE'S KIDDING WITH HIS THREATS AGAINST THE CITY?

THE STREETS WILL BE FILLED WITH FIRE AND BLOOD IF YOU DON'T HELP ME.





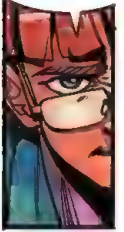
GIVE ME
ONE GOOD
REASON...

WE
HAVE LISA IN
CUSTODY?

LUCKY FOR
HER, SHE'LL BE
SAFER THERE WITH
YOUR THUGS.



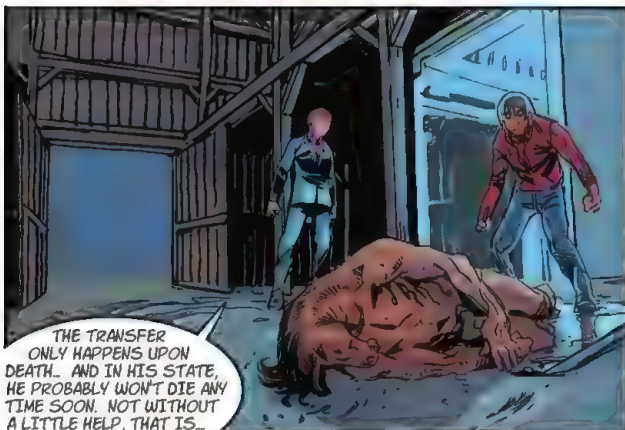
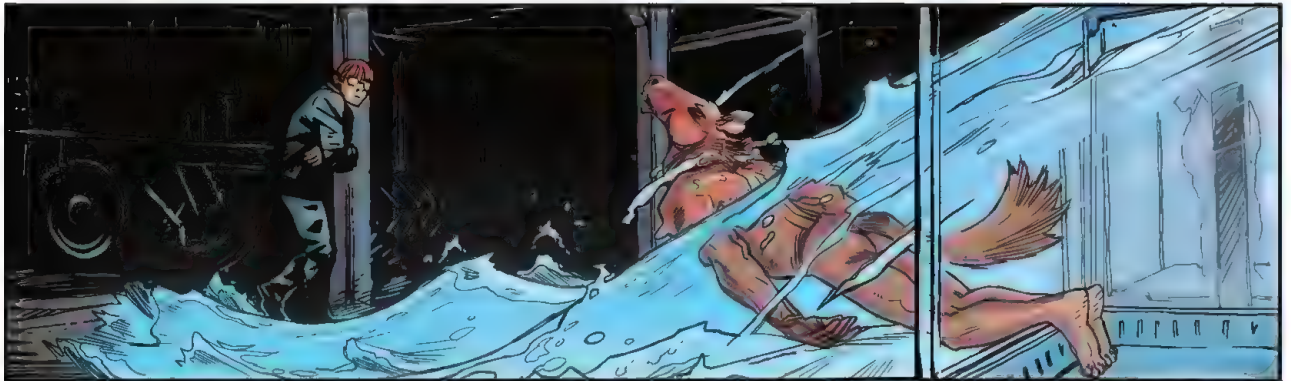
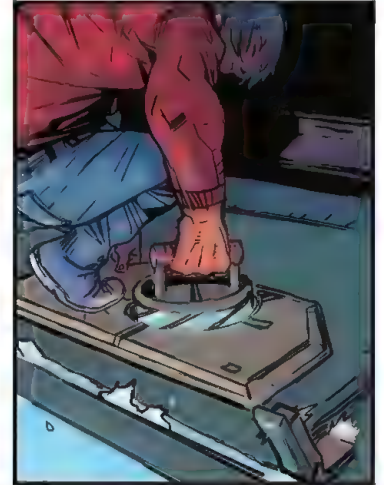
OR MAYBE YOU
JUST DIDN'T
WANT HER TO
SEE YOU STEAL
THE LIFEFORCE
FROM THESE
DIZHIS...



SHUT
UP, FRANK.



YOU'RE NOT
ALLOWED TO GO THERE
ANY MORE. WE'RE NO
LONGER FRIENDS.



THE TRANSFER
ONLY HAPPENS UPON
DEATH... AND IN HIS STATE,
HE PROBABLY WON'T DIE ANY
TIME SOON. NOT WITHOUT
A LITTLE HELP, THAT IS...

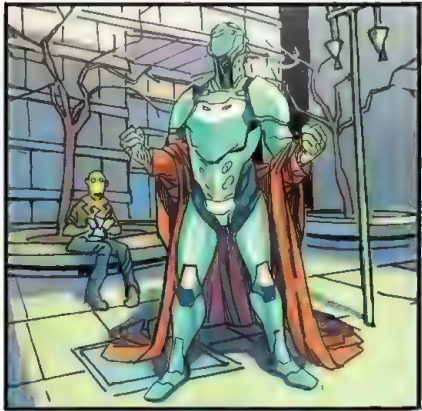


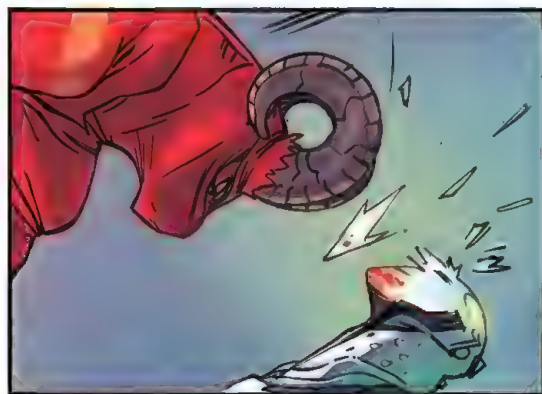
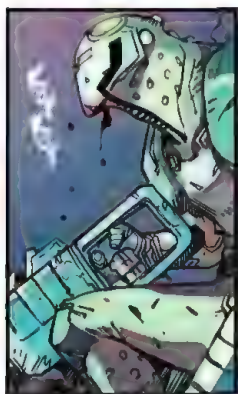
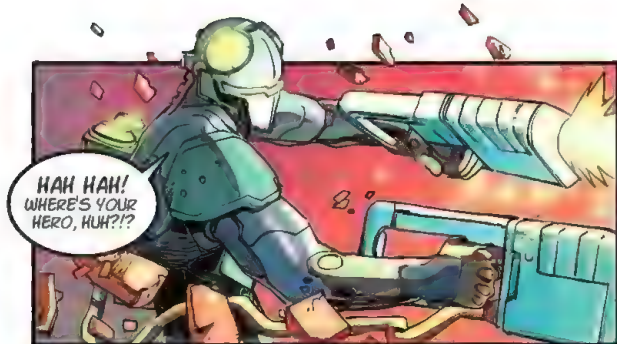
I

IT'S
UP TO YOU.
SOUNDS LIKE
YOU'RE IN A
HURRY.

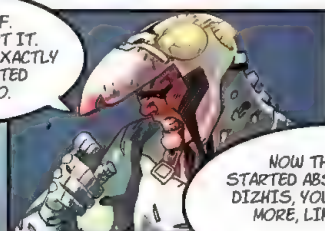


THE NEXT MORNING





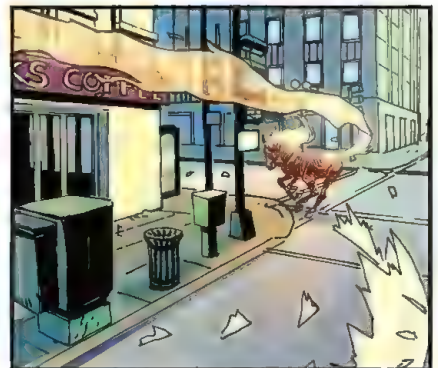
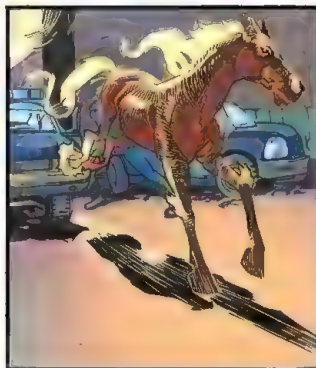
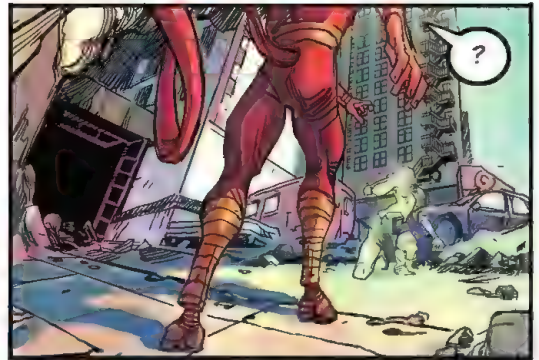
HEH - KOFF.
YOU DON'T GET IT.
YOU JUST DID EXACTLY
WHAT I WANTED
YOU TO DO.

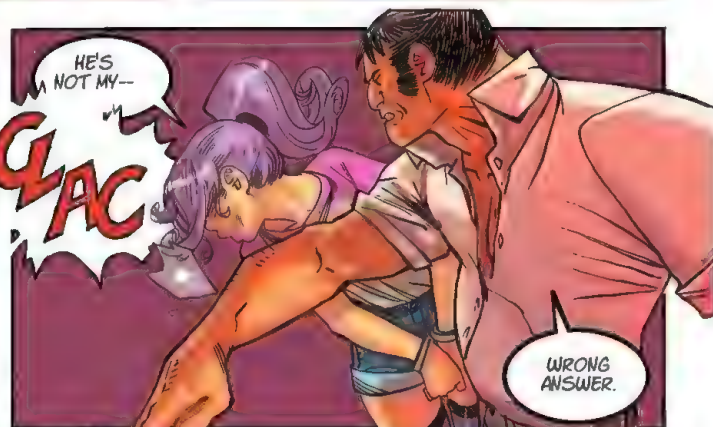
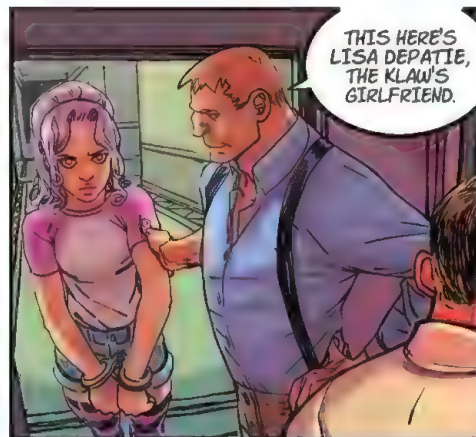
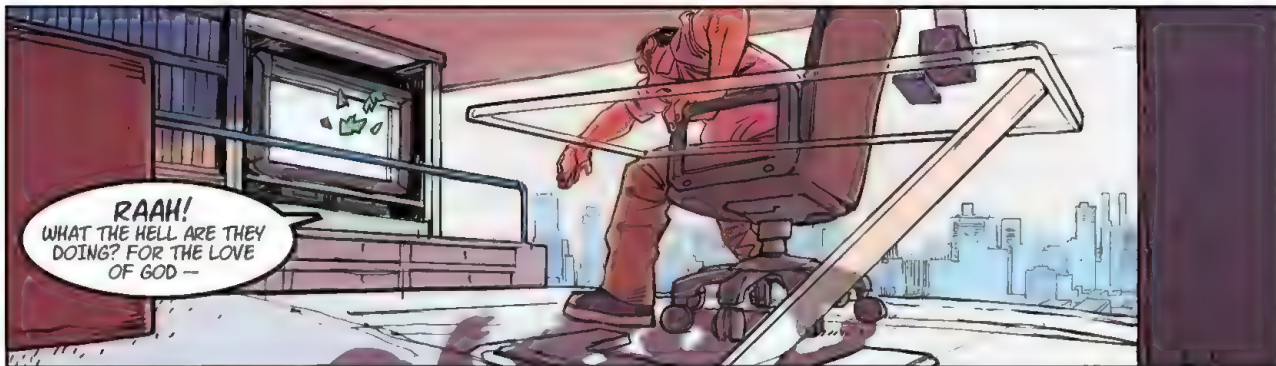


NOW THAT YOU'VE
STARTED ABSORBING OTHER
DIZHIS, YOU GONNA WANT
MORE, LIKE A JUNKIE...

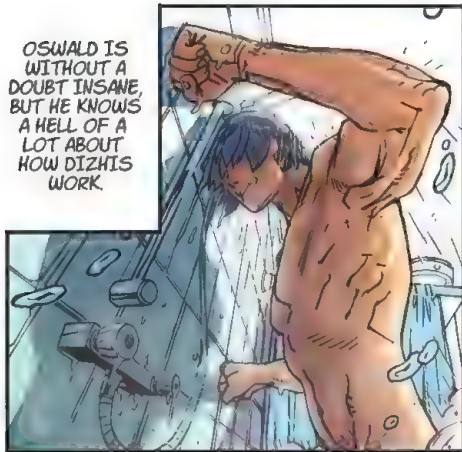
AND WHEN
YOU'VE TAKEN THEM
ALL, THAT'S WHEN WE'LL
MEET AGAIN.



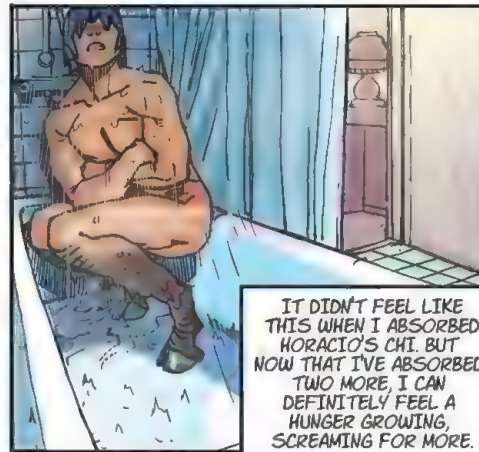




OSWALD IS WITHOUT A DOUBT INSANE, BUT HE KNOWS A HELL OF A LOT ABOUT HOW DIZHIS WORK.



I CRAVE MORE POWER...



IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THIS WHEN I ABSORBED HORACIO'S CHI. BUT NOW THAT I'VE ABSORBED TWO MORE, I CAN DEFINITELY FEEL A HUNGER GROWING, SCREAMING FOR MORE.



YEAH?

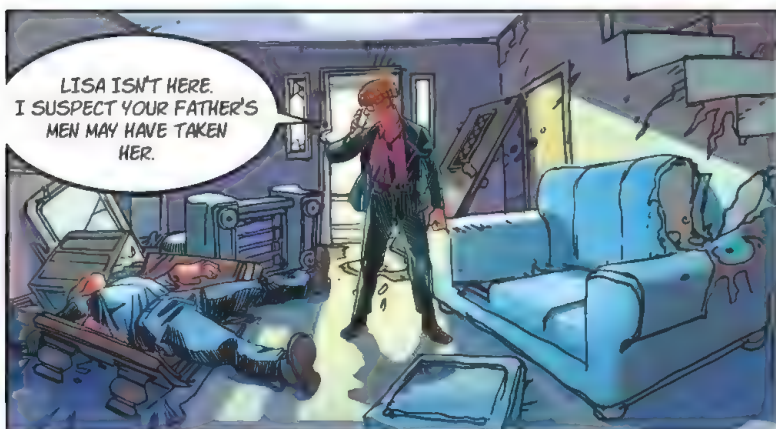


IT'S FRANK I JUST GOT HOME AND...

...OKAY, YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...



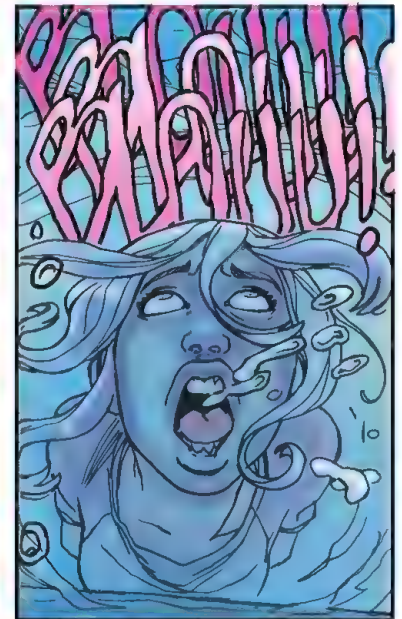
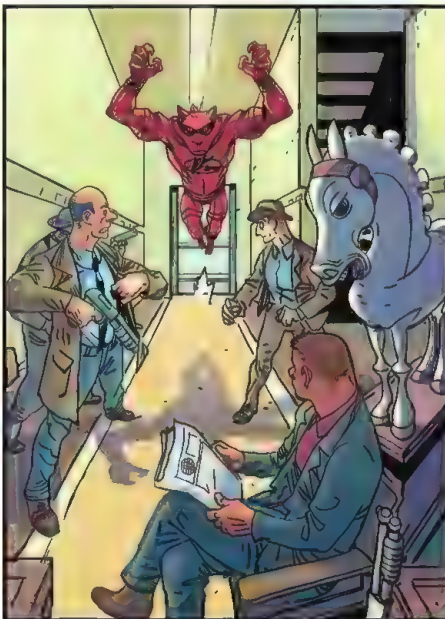
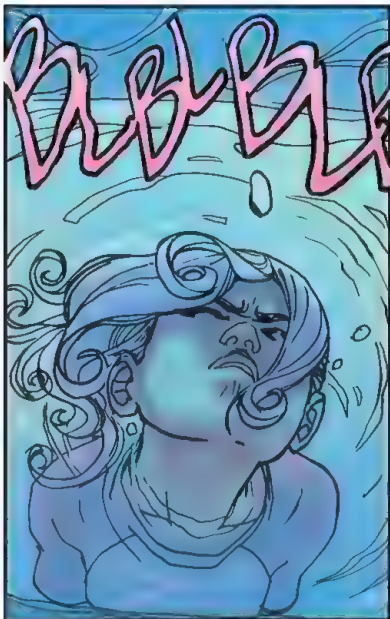
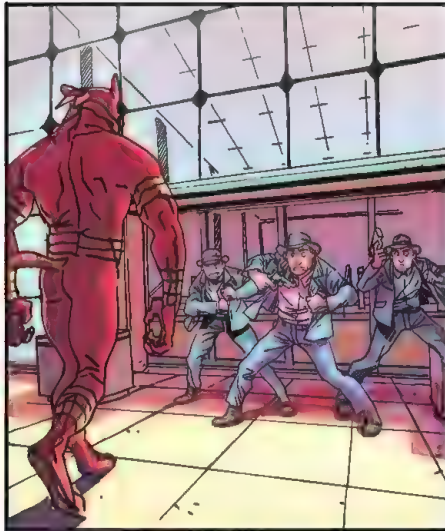
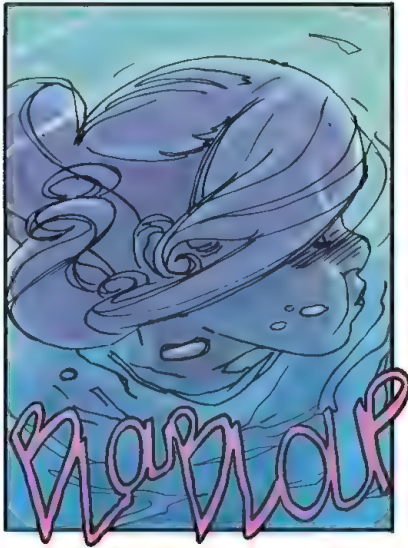
WHAT?? WHAT DO YOU MEAN??



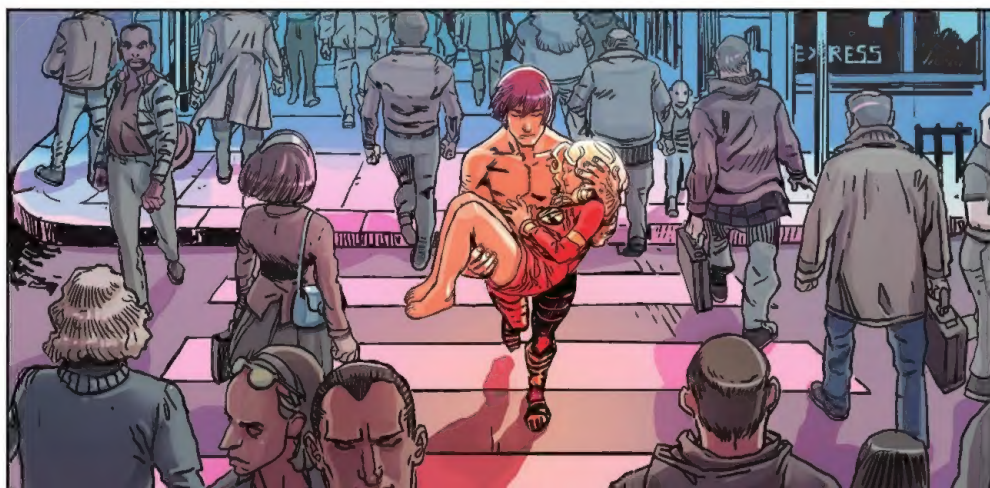
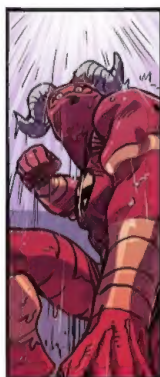
LISA ISN'T HERE. I SUSPECT YOUR FATHER'S MEN MAY HAVE TAKEN HER.



DON'T DO ANYTHING. I'LL HANDLE THIS.







15 DAYS
LATER

"DEAR FRANK,
WE LEFT CHICAGO TO
DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.

"HORACIO ONCE TOLD ME
'WATER NEVER PASSES
UNDER THE SAME BRIDGE
TWICE,' AND I THINK I'M
STARTING TO SEE WHAT
HE MEANT.

"WITH LISA HERE
WITH ME, I DON'T SEE
WHY I'D EVER WANT
TO COME BACK.

"BUT I'M GLAD WE RAN INTO EACH
OTHER AGAIN, DESPITE THE
CIRCUMSTANCES. I COULD NEVER
BELIEVE OUR FRIENDSHIP COULD
ERODE COMPLETELY.

"I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR
KEEPING YOUR WORD AND NOT
COMING AFTER US.

"I'M SURE LISA WOULD LIKE TO PUT
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BEHIND
US. BUT THINGS CHANGE EVERY DAY..

"SO WE'RE FACING
THE FUTURE TOGETHER.

"BYE, BUDDY.
-ANGE"

"PS: I READ ONLINE THAT MY DAD INCREASED SECURITY AFTER HE WAS ATTACKED BY THE KLAU.



"I HOPE HE'LL SETTLE DOWN A BIT NOW. BUT I DOUBT HE KNOWS HOW TO."



MISTER TOMASSINI?



HUH?



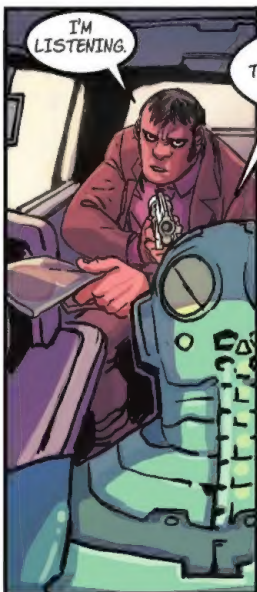
OH YEAH? WHAT IS?

WE HAVE A COMMON ENEMY, MR. TOMASSINI. AND THE ONLY WORTHWHILE QUESTION IS HOW TO MAKE HIM LITTLE MORE THAN A BAD MEMORY.



HOW DID YOU..?

THAT'S NOT THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE ASKING.



I'M LISTENING.

LET'S JUST SAY IN MY PREVIOUS JOB, I DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD ELIMINATE SUCH THREATS. UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS SHUT DOWN PREMATURELY.



I HEAR YOU. HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED?



HEH HEH, PHIL, I THINK YOU AND I ARE IN A POSITION TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

ONLY TIME WILL TELL.

END OF THE FIRST CYCLE